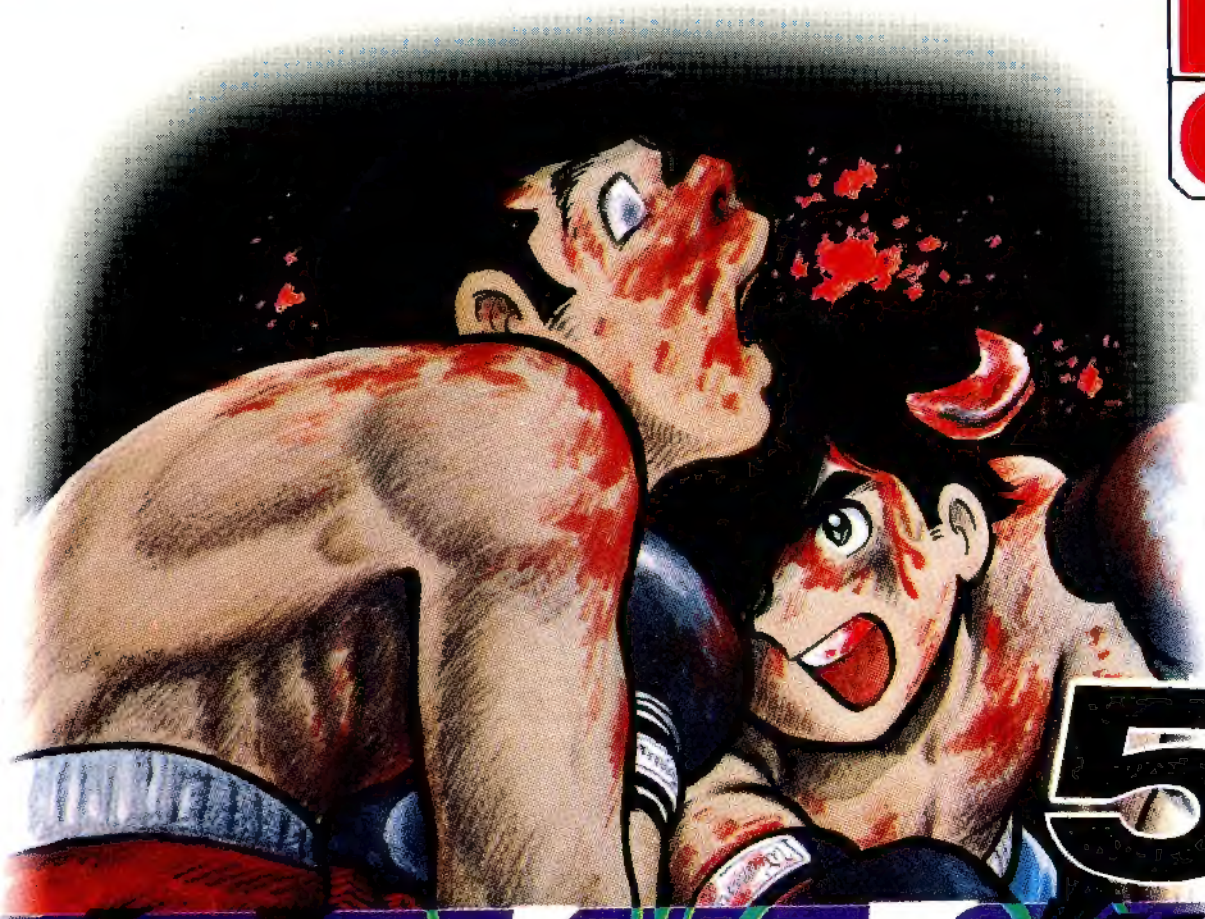
Kodansya Comics

KC



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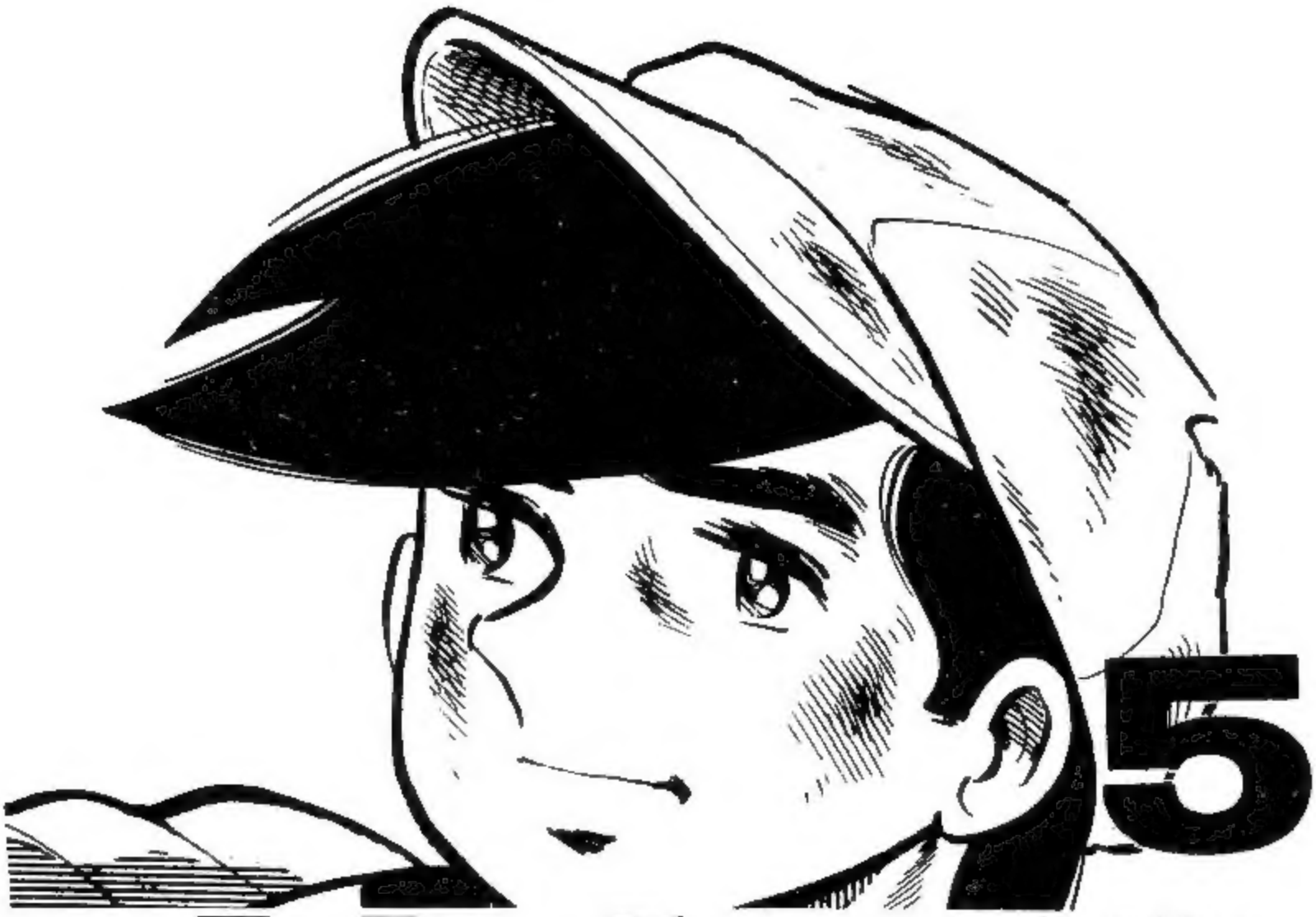
あしたのジョー

原作／高森朝雄　ちばてつや



あしたのジョー

原作／高森朝雄＝ちばてつや

矢吹丈――。かれは、東光少年院きってのあばれ者だったが、すぐれた素質を見込まれて、元ボクサーの丹下段平から、ボクシングの指導をうけていた。

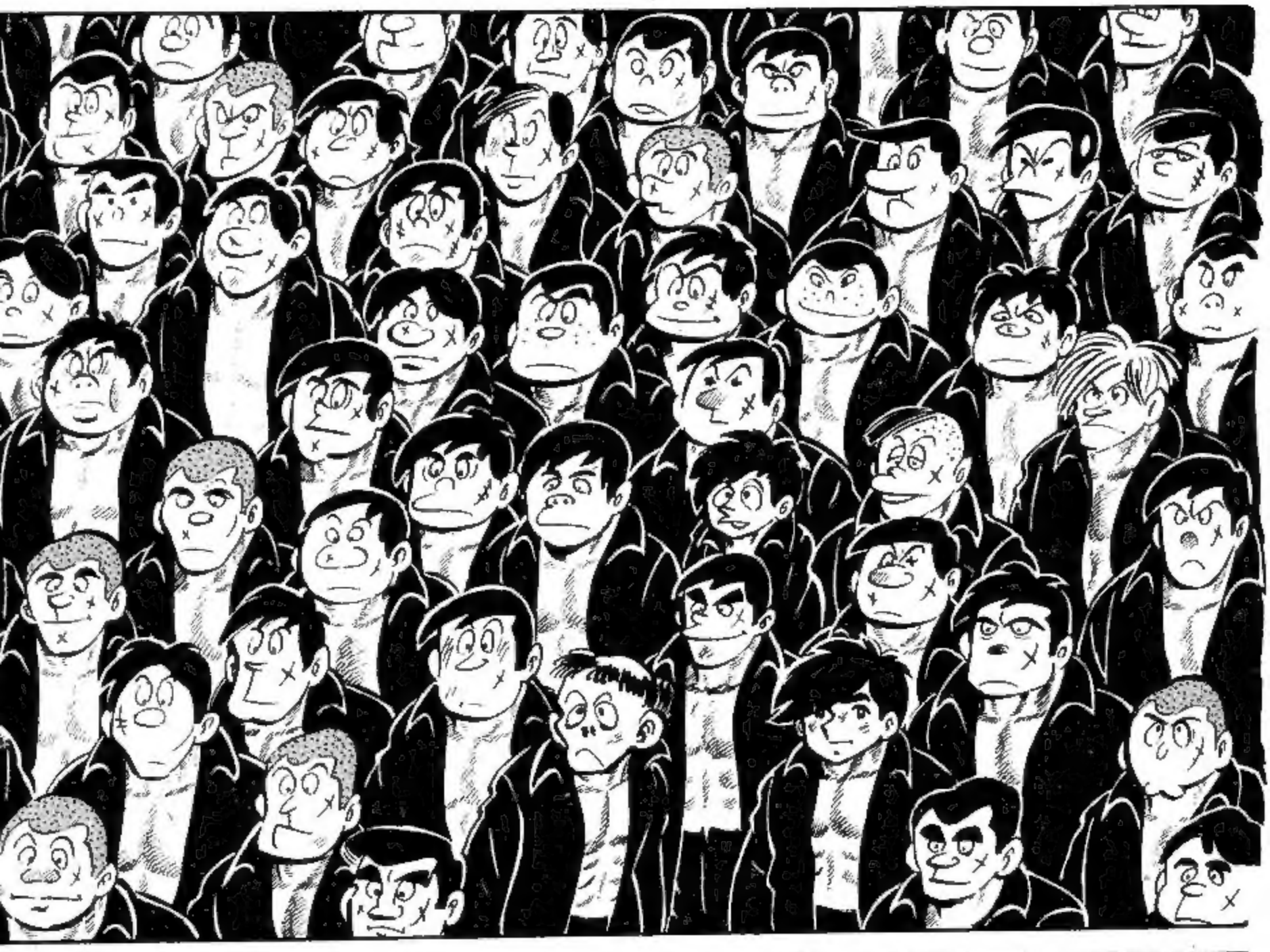
院のボス、力石徹は、元プロの六回戦ボーイで、丈とは、たがいに宿敵として、ことごとに対立していた。

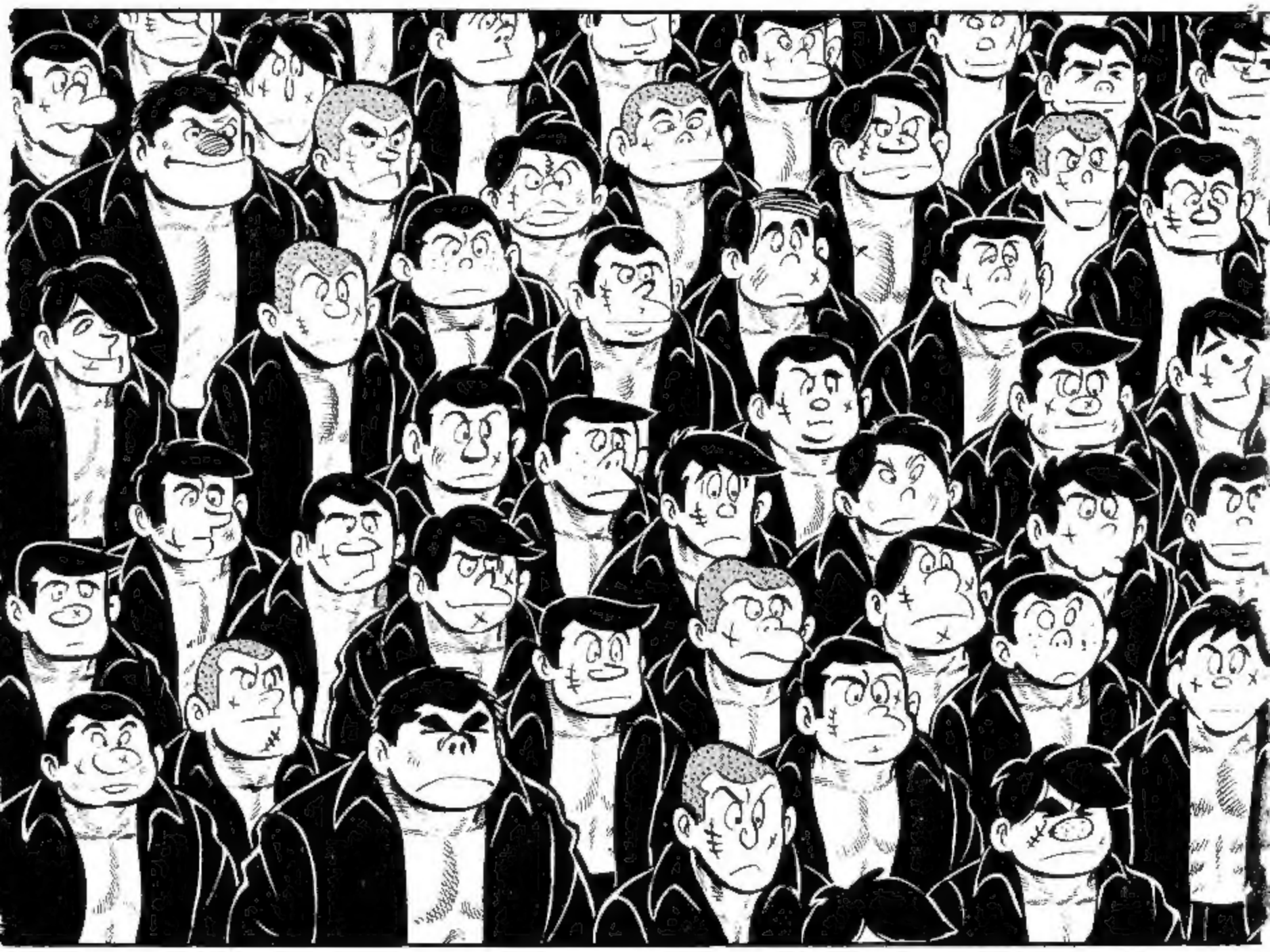
折から院内の寮対抗ボクシング大会が行なわれ、丈と力石の寮はともに決勝戦に勝ちのこり、試合は一週間後に行なわれることになった。

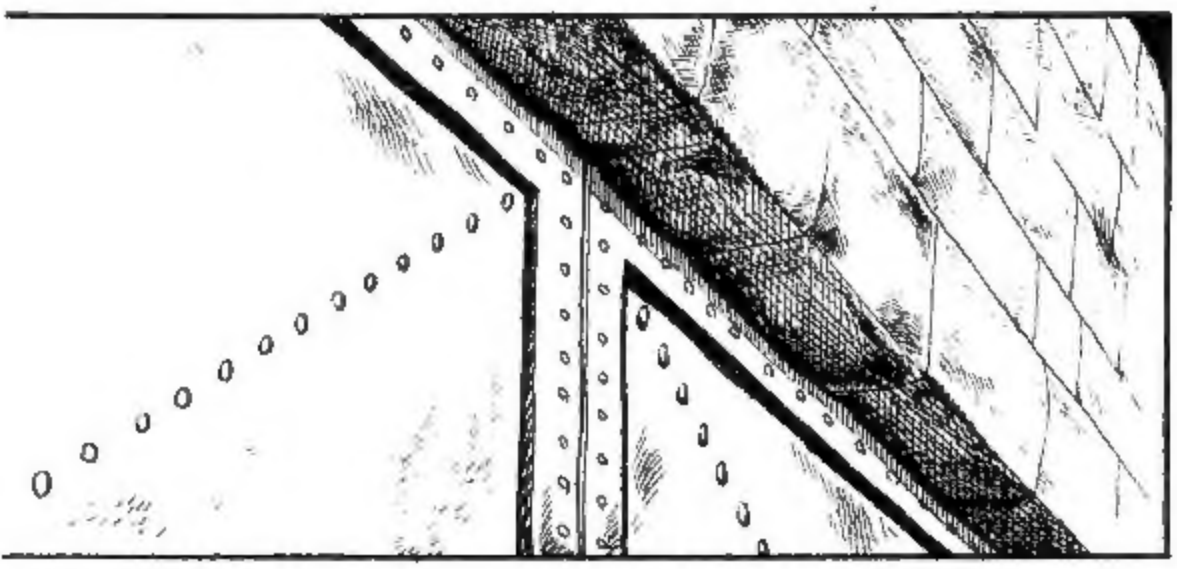
だがその直後、力石の出所が三日後ときまり、勝負の決着をいそぐふたりは、たちまち壮烈な打ち合いをはじめた。

しかし、段平や、力石の後援者の白木葉子らの説得で、たがいに出所後、プロボクサーとして公開のリング上で、堂々と対決することになった……。

★前巻までのあらすじ★







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BECAUSE TODAY IS THE DAY WHEN ANOTHER ONE OF OUR YOUNG MEN LEAVES THIS PLACE TO BECOME A GOOD MEMBER OF SOCIETY!

YOU ALL SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR HIM!

WE HAVE GATHERED ALL OUR INMATES TODAY!

EHEM!

EH!

COME HERE AND GREET EVERYBODY!

THE INMATE WHO IS LEAVING TODAY IS TOORU RIKIISHI!

WHAT ABOUT THAT SUIT HEH?

YOU'RE LOOKING LIKE A FAMOUS PERSON!

HEY! HEY! MR. PRESIDENT! YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, AREN'T YOU?!!

STOP IT PLEASE.

HEHE THAT'S OKAY.

LADY-KILLER!

QUIET PLEA SE.

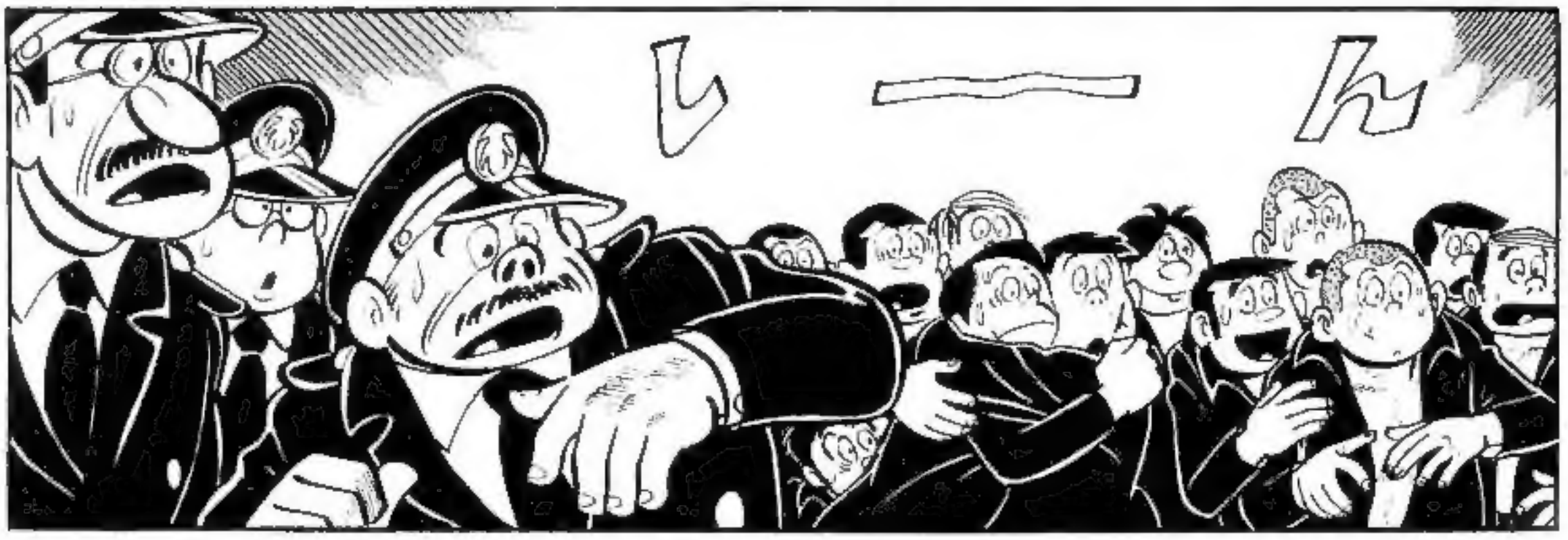
OH! HOW CUNNING! TRYING TO GET HER JUST FOR YOURSELF!

LADY-KILLER!

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR SUIT? I KNOW! MISS YOUKO GAVE IT TO YOU!

I'LL KNOCK YOU ALL OUT!

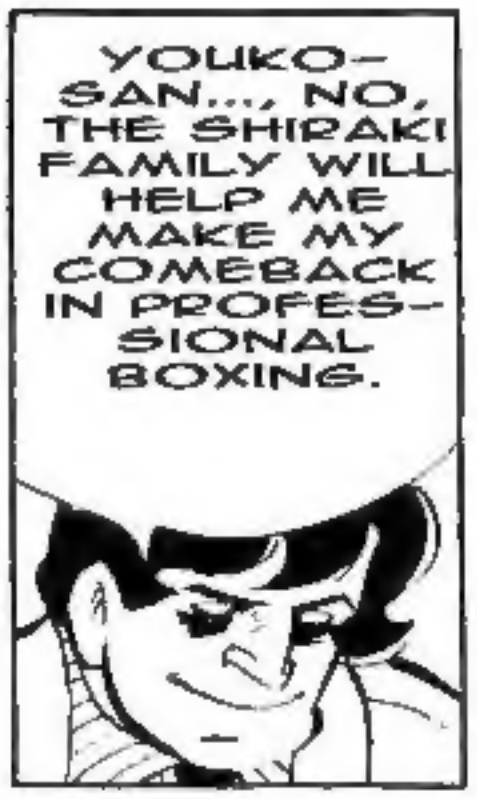
I TOLD YOU ALL TO SHUT UP! AREN'T YOU ALL A BIT TOO EXCITED!?



HEHE! YOU WERE JOKING, RIGHT?
HEHE! YOU FRIGHTENED US!
UUH!

FROM THIS DAY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO CALL ALL OF YOU MY COMPANIONS ANYMORE.
HEH

IT WAS FAST! YOUKO-SAN'S NAME ALREADY CAME UP!


YOUKO-SAN..., NO, THE SHIRAKI FAMILY WILL HELP ME MAKE MY COMEBACK IN PROFES-SIONAL BOXING.

WELL
I GUESS THAT WHEN I GET OUT OF THIS PLACE...

THIS HURTS!
PEOPLE DON'T NEED TO HEAR ALL THE NON-SENSE YOU HAVE IN YOUR HEAD!

WHAT?!
YOU IDIOT. THIS AIN'T THE TIME TO DO THIS.

MY BAD...
EH...

THAT 'S IT . . .

NOW I'M GOING TO THANK YOU ALL WITH MY EFFORT TO REACH THIS GOAL.

WHEN I GOT HERE, THE PEOPLE SUPORTED ME IN MY GOAL TO BECOME A GREAT BOXER.

. . . .

GO OUT THERE AND BECOME THE WORLD CHAMPION!

GREAT ! GREAT !

WE'RE ALL PROUD OF YOU! WE'LL ALL BE CHEERING FOR YOU!

DO YOUR BEST RIKIISHI!

I APOLOGISE FOR ANY TROUBLES I MAY HAVE CAUSED.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS RIGHT, RIKIISHI. I GUESS NO ONE EVEN IMAGINES YOU COMING BACK TO THIS JUVENILE PRISON. YOU ARE THIS PLACE'S ROLE MODEL!

JOE . . .

THIS IS SO SAD I'M CRYING! WHAT A GREAT SCENE!

WE'RE JUST GONNA HAVE A LITTLE TALK

DONT WORRY

ARE YOU APOLOGISING FOR ALL THE WORK YOU GAVE ME? ARE YOU GOING TO SHAKE HANDS WITH ME?

OH !

THIS IS YOUR DEPARTURE DAY!

HEY! RIKII-SHI!

NO USE LYING NOW. YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.

HU HU

IF YOU WANT TO TALKS SO MUCH THEN TELL ME, WHEN WE FOUGHT THREE DAYS AGO, YOU HAD A STONE UNDER YOUR GLOVES, DIDN'T YOU?

SOMEDAY YOU'LL ALSO GET AWAY FROM HERE.

THAT'S NOT IT

EVEN IF I HADN'T USED THE STONE I WOULD HAVE WON!

AS WHILE AS YOU STAY WITH THAT OLD MAN, YOUR PRO BOXING CAREER IS IN RISK.

AND ABOUT DAMPEI... YOU WANT TO BECOME A PRO BOXER JUST LIKE ME.

TILL THEN, GOOD LUCK.

THEN WE MIGHT PLAY AGAIN.

AT THE TIME WHEN YOU HAVE COURAGE TO FIGHT ME WITHOUT ROCKS UNDER YOUR GLOVES,

AT THE TIME . . .

THAT

TH...

KEH KEH KEH

HEH HEH HEH

HU HU HU

I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU TO DEATH!

YOU BASTARD!

LET GO!

STOP YABUKI!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

LET GO! STOP BOTHERING ME!

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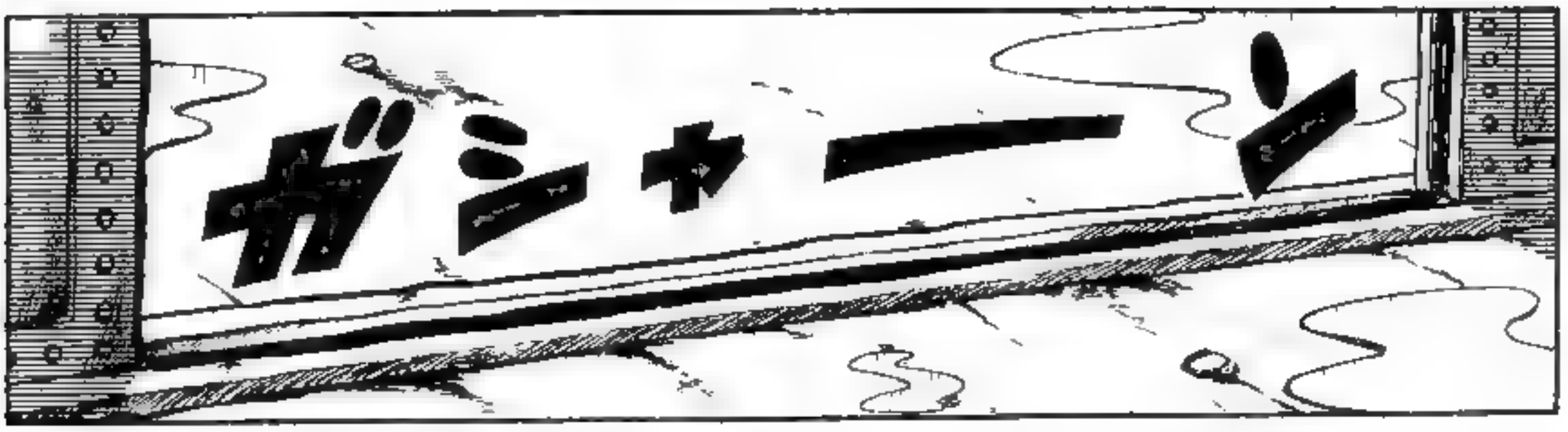
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MISS YOUKO ...?
GO OUT THERE AND BEGIN A NEW LIFE. DON'T BETRAY YOUKO-SAN'S TRUST, SHE'S WAITING YOU OUT THERE.
RIKIISHI IS LEAVING THROUGH THAT GATE. IT MUST BE NICE TO BREATHE THE AIR OF FREEDOM
SHIT! WAIT RIKIISHI!
ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
CALM DOWN JOE! PLEASE CALM DOWN!
LETS PUT THIS GUY BACK IN THE INTROSPEC-TION CELL!
HAND-CUFFS! PUT HAND-CUFFS ON HIM!

OH! A COUPLE!

YOU CAME TO PICK ME UP...? MISS...

WOW! SHE CAME TO PICK HIM UP WITH A CONVERT-IBLE!

HOW NICE!

HEY! YOU AREN'T SUP-POSED TO GO OUT!

CON-GRATU-LATIONS RIKIISHI

A... AH!

IT'S NOTHING. IT'S JUST JOE, WHO TAKES EVERYTHING TOO SERIOUSLY. I ONLY MADE A JOKE AND HE GOT ALL MAD...

WHAT HAP-PENED? THINGS LOOK NOISY INSIDE THE PRISON.

HAH
HUH

THAT'S NOT IT...

OH! HE'S USING HAND-CUFFS... WHAT A PITY, HE CAN'T GO OUT AND PEOPLE KEEP MAKING JOKES ABOUT IT...

HE'S REGRET TING WHAT HE'S DONE.

SEND OUR REGARDS TO MR. SHIRAKI MIKINOSUKE

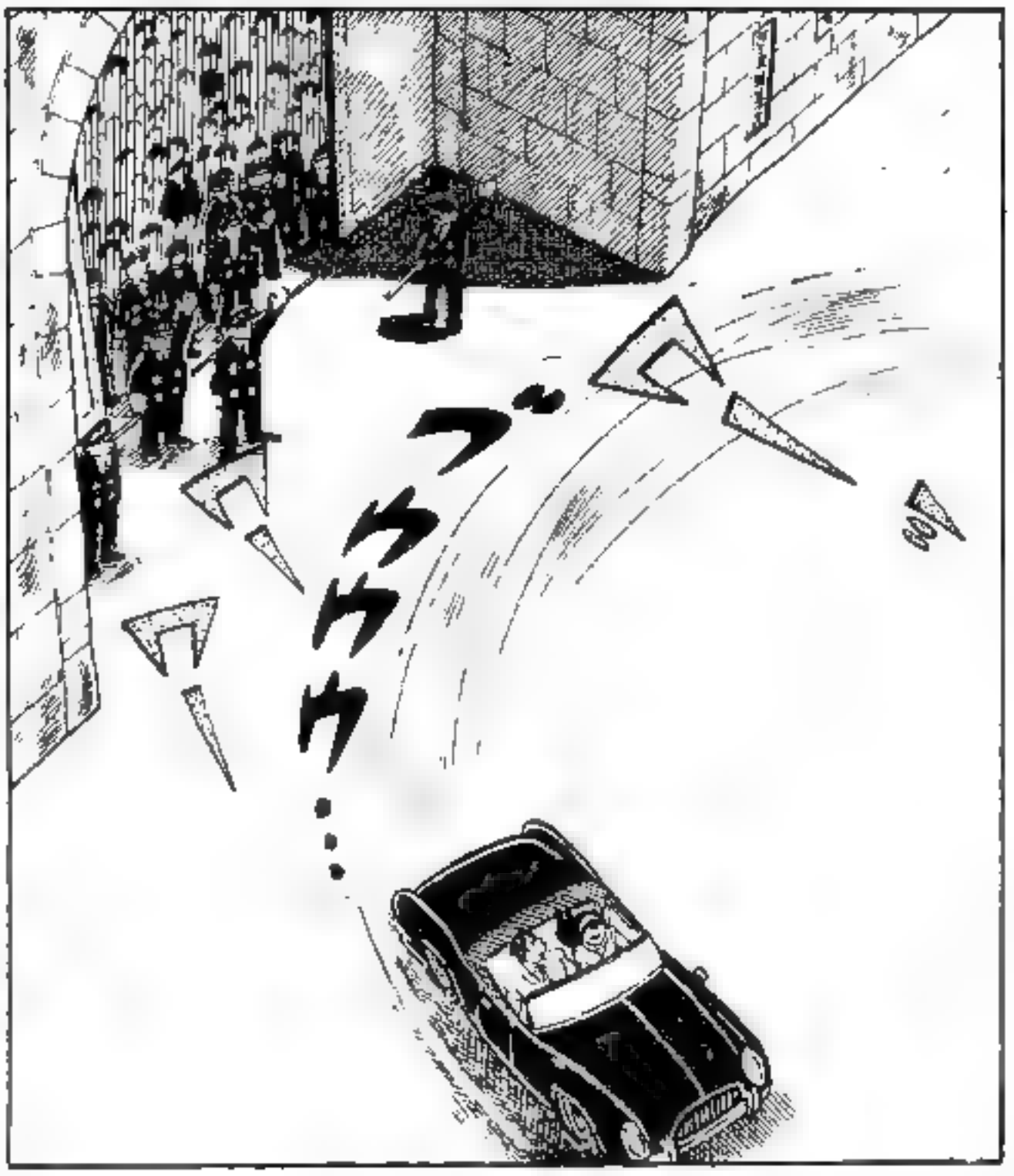
HE'LL BECOME A GREAT MEMBER OF SOCIETY, AND ON TOP OF THAT A WONDERFUL BOXER, WHO'LL MAKE A HUGE COMEBACK.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR TAKING CARE OF RIKIISHI FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.

SHOULD WE BE GOING?

SO,

GOOD BYE!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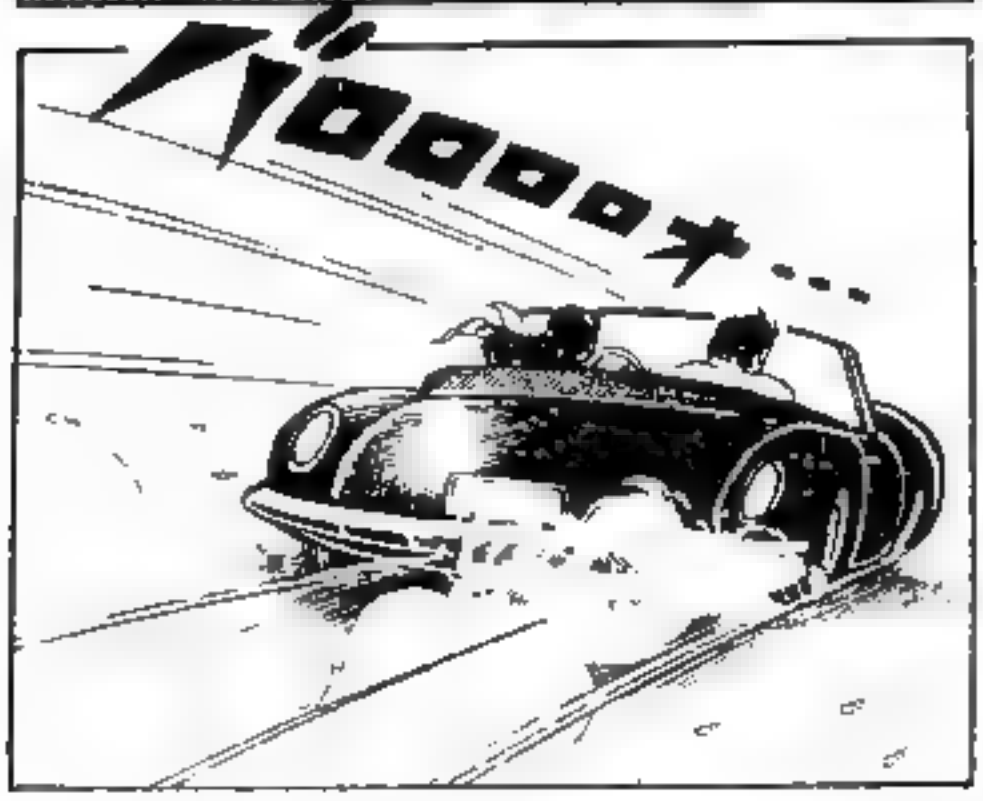
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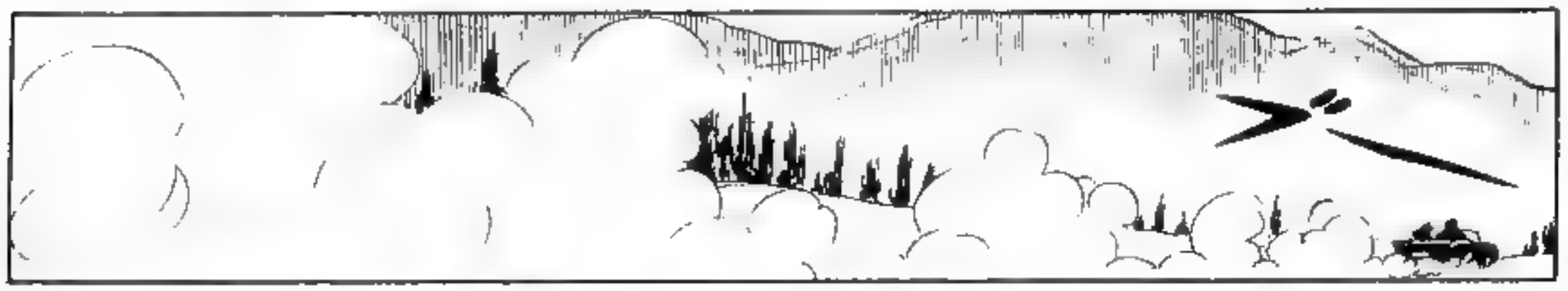

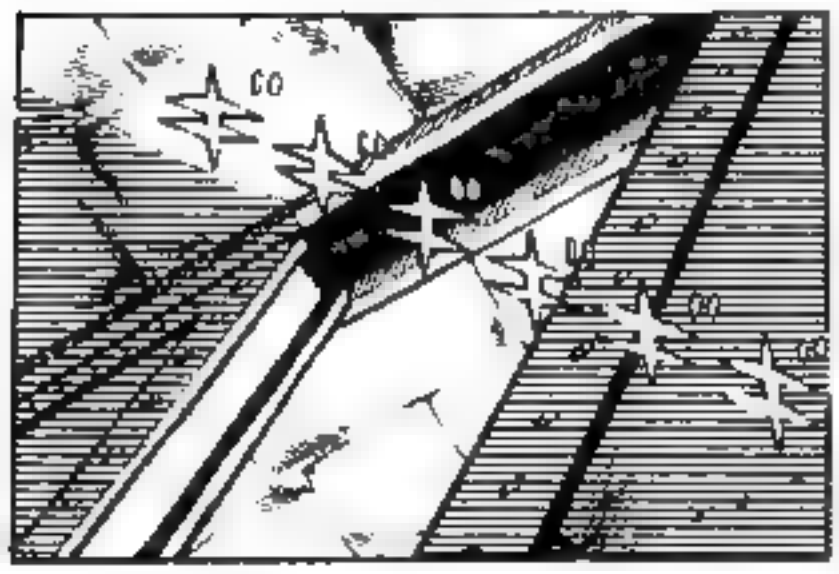
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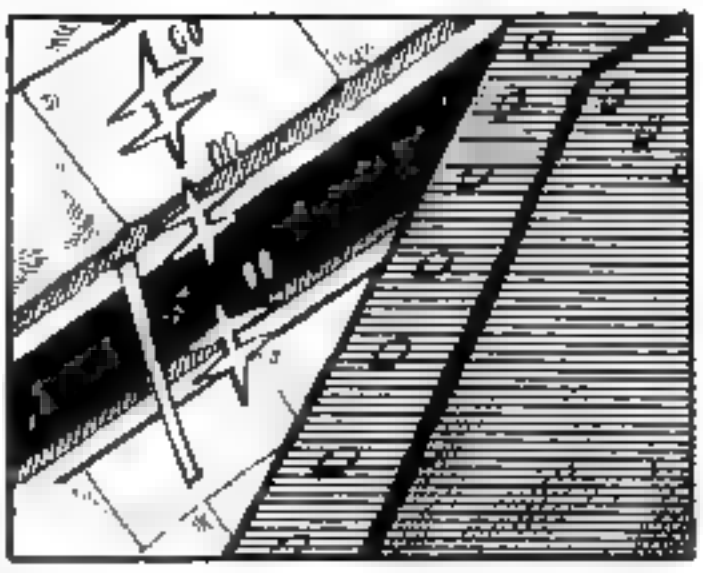
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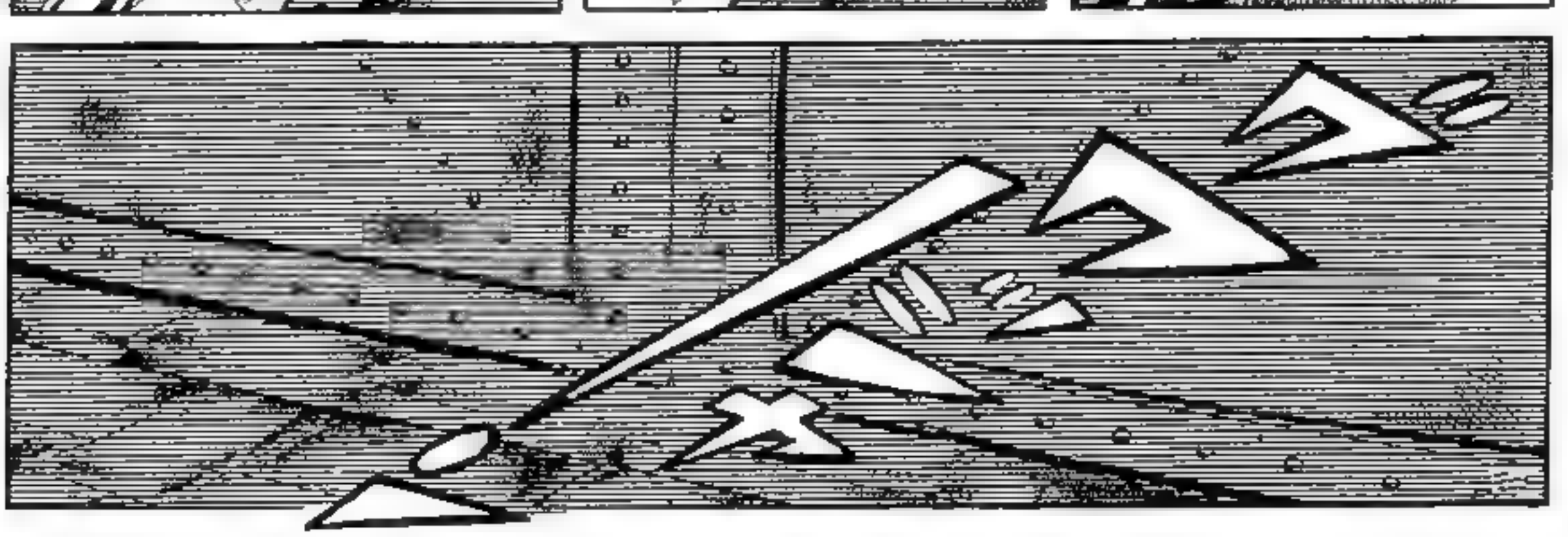
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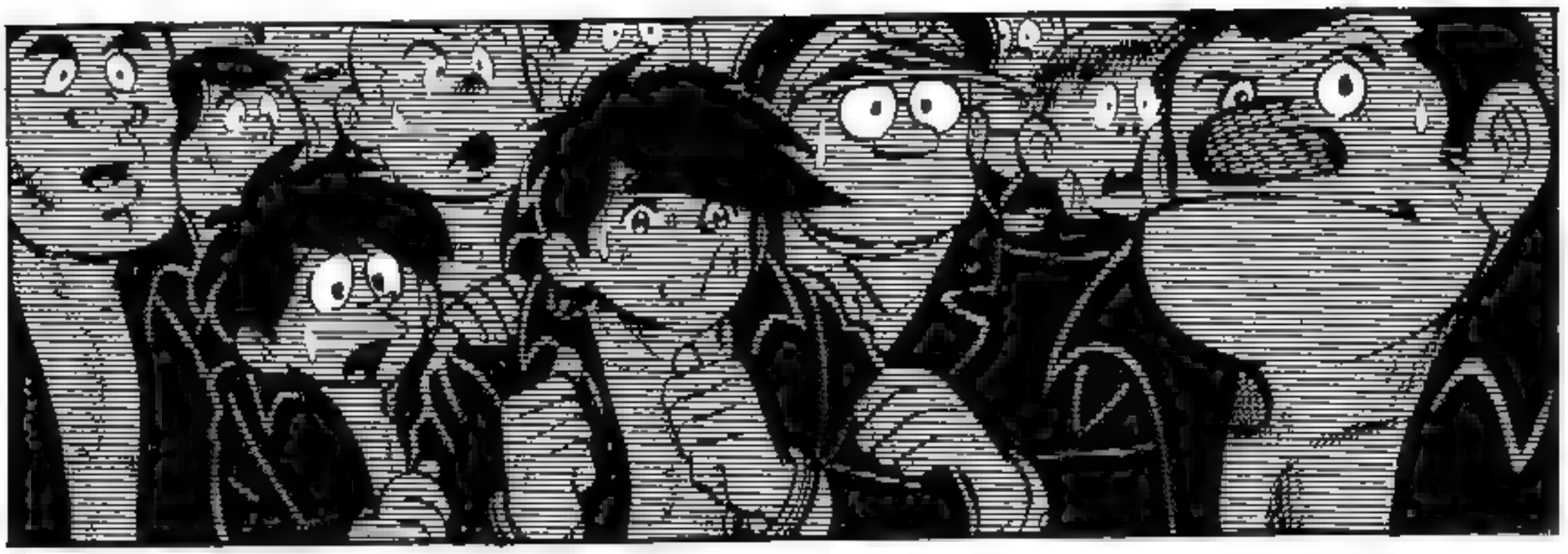
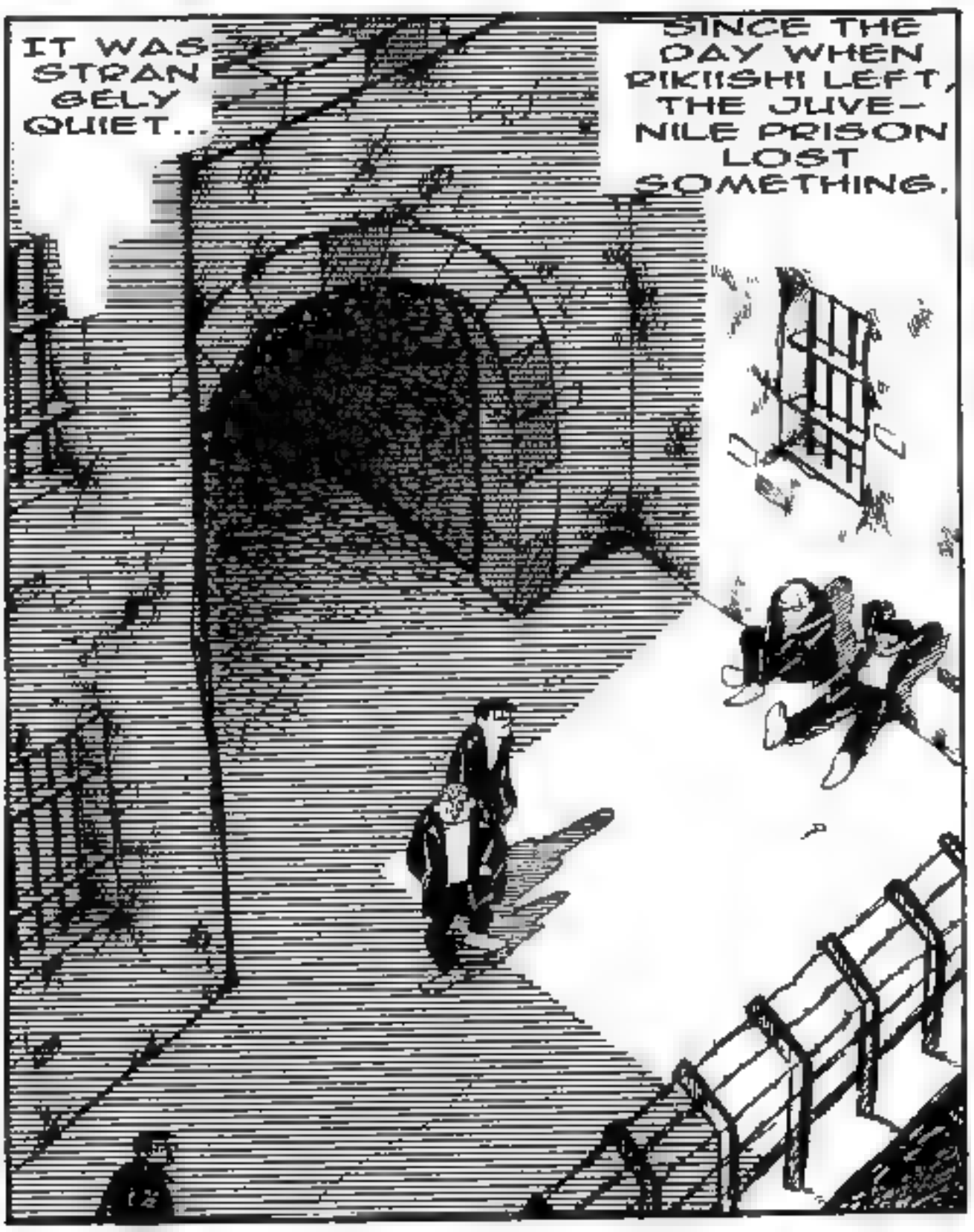
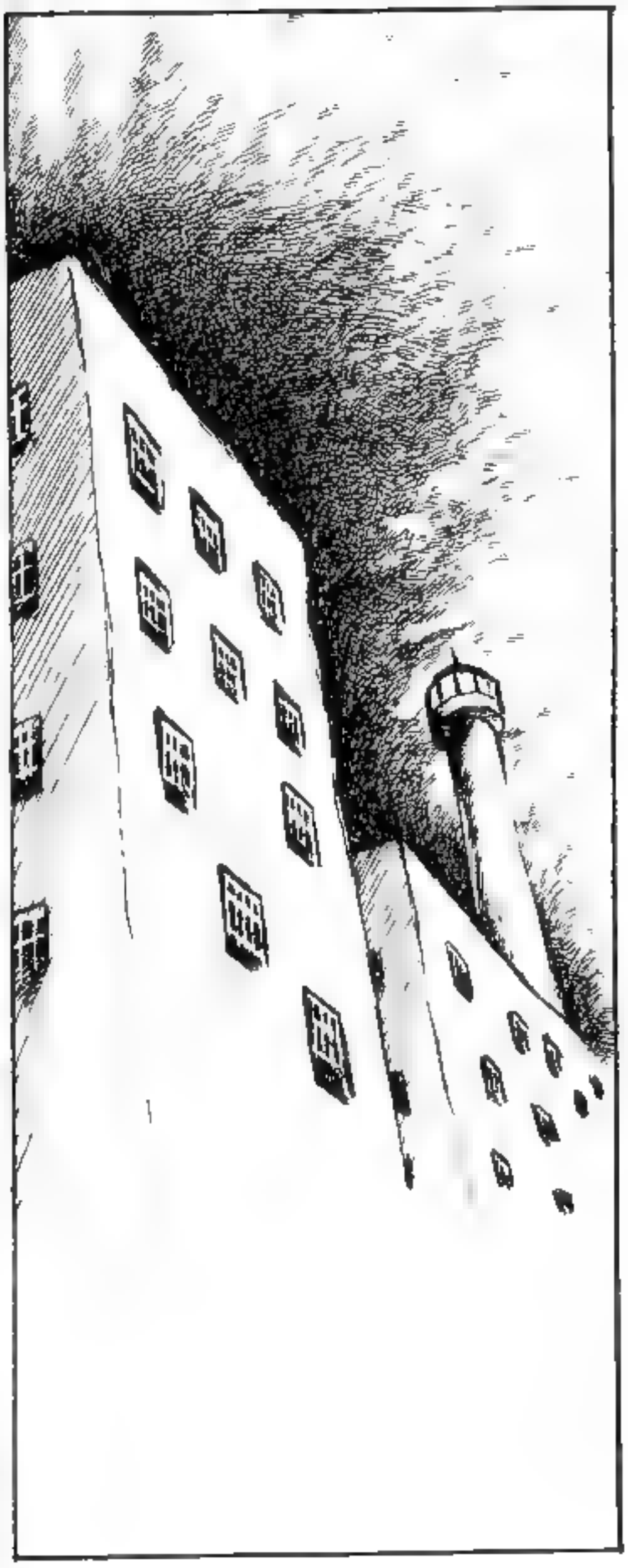



IT WAS STRANGELY QUIET...
SINCE THE DAY WHEN RIKIISHI LEFT, THE JUVENILE PRISON LOST SOMETHING.



THE NEXT SUNDAY, WITHOUT SHIRAKI YOUKO'S PRESENCE, THE BOXING TOURNAMENT HAD IT'S FINALS.

HAD NO ONE TO MATCH JOE'S STRENGTH.

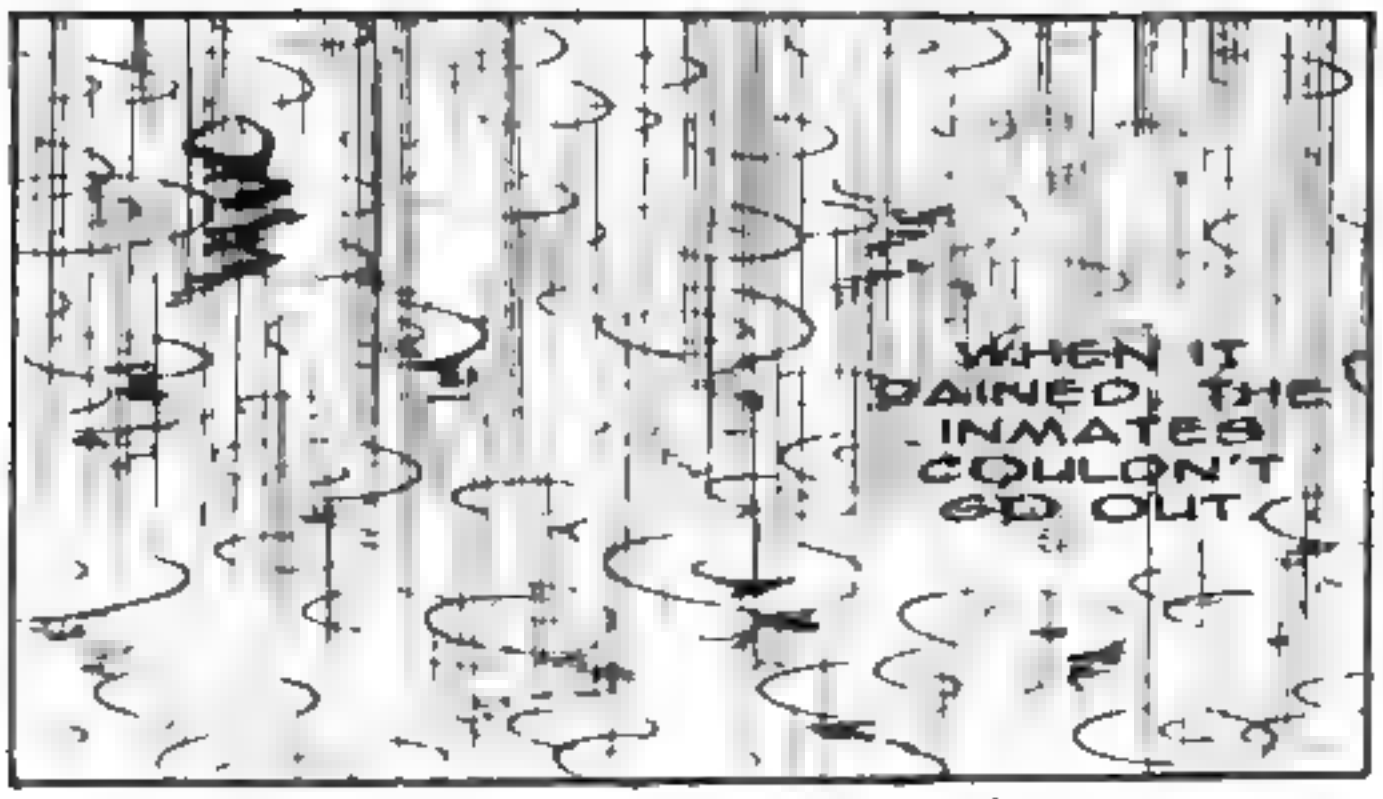
JOE AND HIS BLOCK SIX FOUGHT BLOCK ONE, WHICH WITHOUT RIKIISHI,

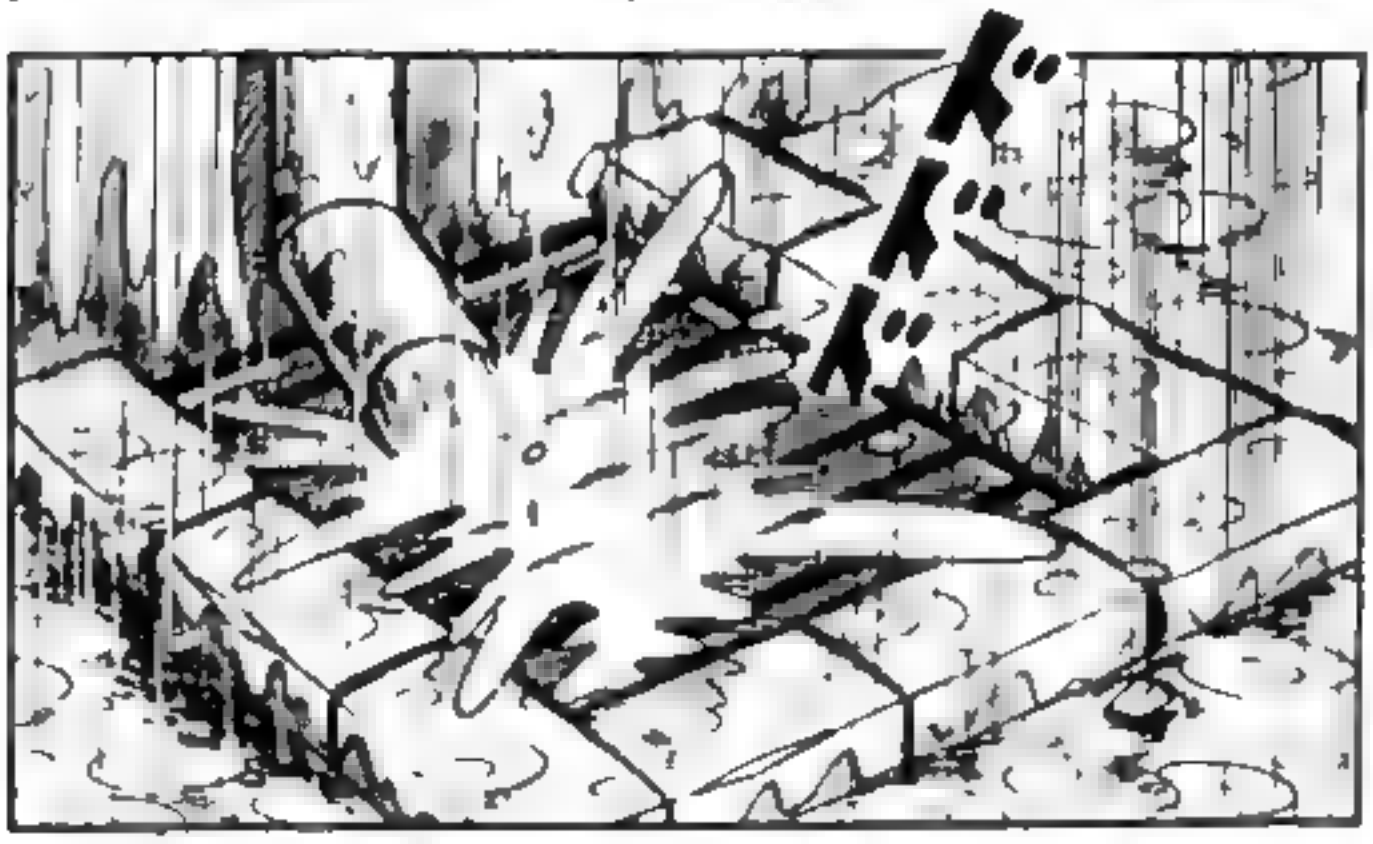
HOWEVER... JOE WASN'T EVEN A LITTLE HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

AND THIS STRANGE FEELING REMAINED WITH JOE FOR MANY MONTHS, AS HE CONTINUED TO LIVE HIS LIFE INSIDE THE CONCRETE WALLS.
HE JUST COULDN'T FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS.

NOTHING THAT JOE DID GOT HIM INTER-ESTED.

THERE WAS SOMETHING MISSING.


WHEN IT RAINED, THE INMATES COULDN'T GO OUT.


K"
K"
K"

THEY ALL SAT AROUND INSIDE THE BUILDINGS, AS THEY WAITED FOR THEIR TURN...

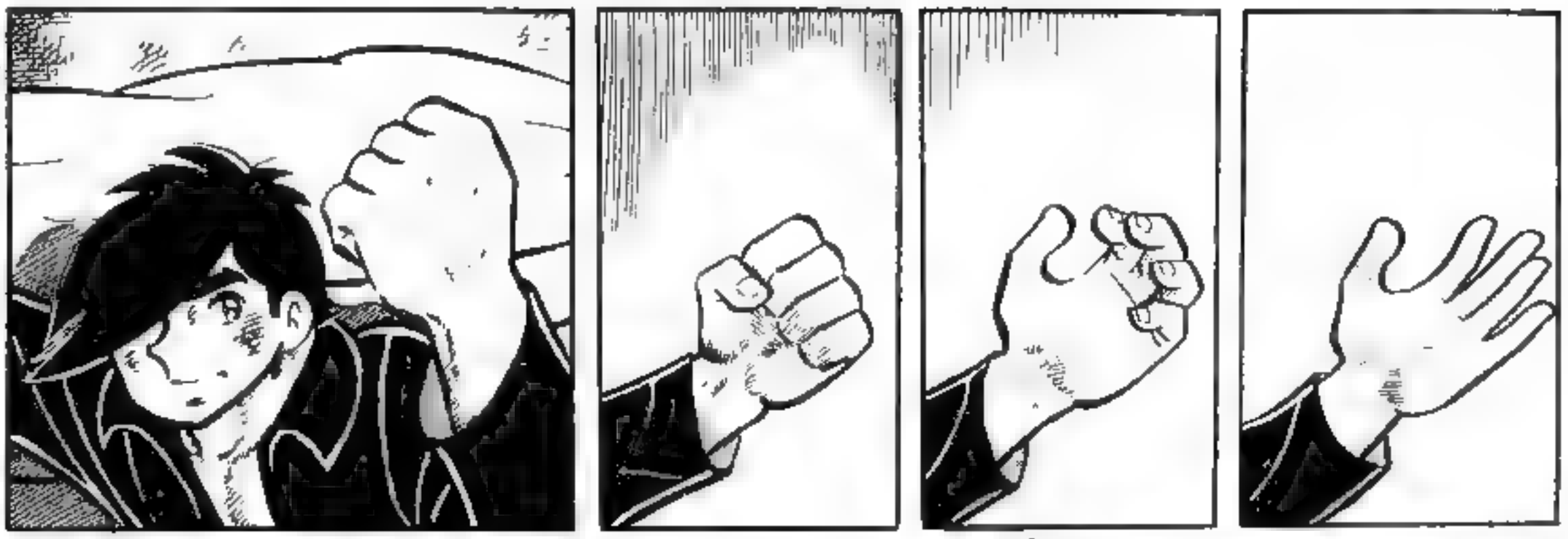
AND IT RAINS AGAIN IN THE JUVENILE PRISON.

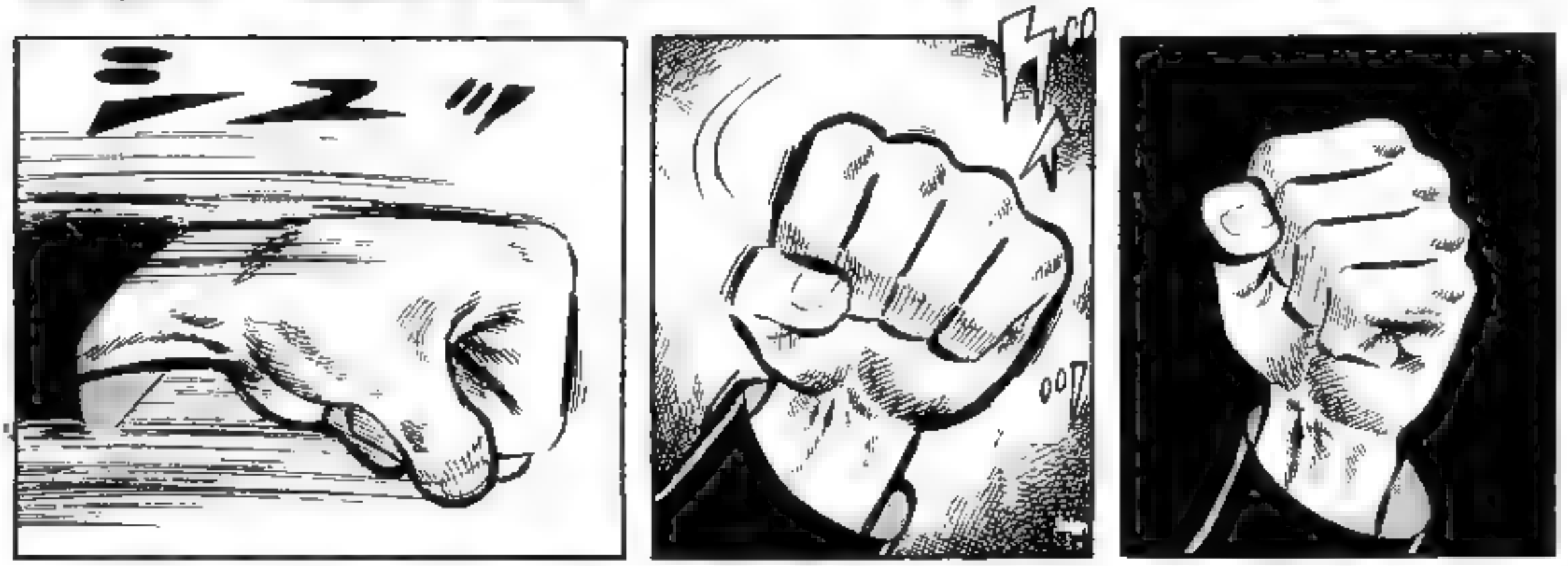
HEH
HEH
HEH

INSIDE THEIR ROOMS THEY JUST SAT AROUND PLAYING GAMES, READING BOOKS OR JUST TALKING, WAITING FOR THE TIME TO PASS.

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH





DID YOU HEAR? THIS GUY IS SAYING HE WILL CREATE A BAND WHEN HE GETS OUT OF HERE!
HIHIHI HIHI!
NICE SOUND...

I'LL TAKE THE FLOWERS!

WHEN WE ALL GET OUT WE WANT TO HEAR YOU PLAYING!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT IT? HAVE YOU HEARD ME PLAYING THE GUITAR?

HE HE HE!

WHAT ABOUT YOU SKELETON? WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO AFTER YOU LEAVE?

PUBLIC BATH?

I'M PLANNING ON WORKING IN A PUBLIC BATH.

YEAH! WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER YOU RETURN TO FREEDOM?

I'LL WORK AT A PUBLIC BATH.

NO USE THINK-ING SO BIG.

はっはっは

WHY ARE YOU THINKING SO SMALL?

はっはっはっは

HE'S WAITING IN FRONT OF THE GYM

GO.

AH!

THE OLD MAN'S COME!

YABUKI!

THANK YOU

JOE'S GONE TRAINING AGAIN...

EH.....

IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, YOU CAN NOTICE THAT JOE'S PRETTY STRONG.

WHEN HE GET'S OUT, HE'LL QUICKLY RUN THE PATH TO BECOME A PRO BOXER!

THOSE TWO ARE REALLY INTO IT.

HOWEVER... IN THE PRO BOXING WORLD EVERYONE IS AS STRONG AS A MONSTER.

HI

.....

YOU KNOW I'M ONLY ALLOWED TO STAY HERE FOR A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG!?

YOU GOT ANOTHER VISIT? YOUKO-SAN GOT IT FOR YOU?

FOR A START LET'S DO SOME-THING LIGHT.

WHAT IS HE DOING?

RIKII-SHI . . .

YES, I ASKED HER TO.

WHY HAVEN'T YOU STARTED TRAINING?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M NOT VERY WELL CONECTED TO THE BOXING WORLD. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING LATELY.

ALL I HAVE IS YOU JOE.

SO, WHAT'S RIKIISHI DOING? HAS HE MADE HIS COMEBACK YET?

YES...

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING? NOT EVEN WHAT GYM HE'S GOING TO?

JOE! IF YOU DON'T NEED MY COACHING I'LL JUST GO AWAY !

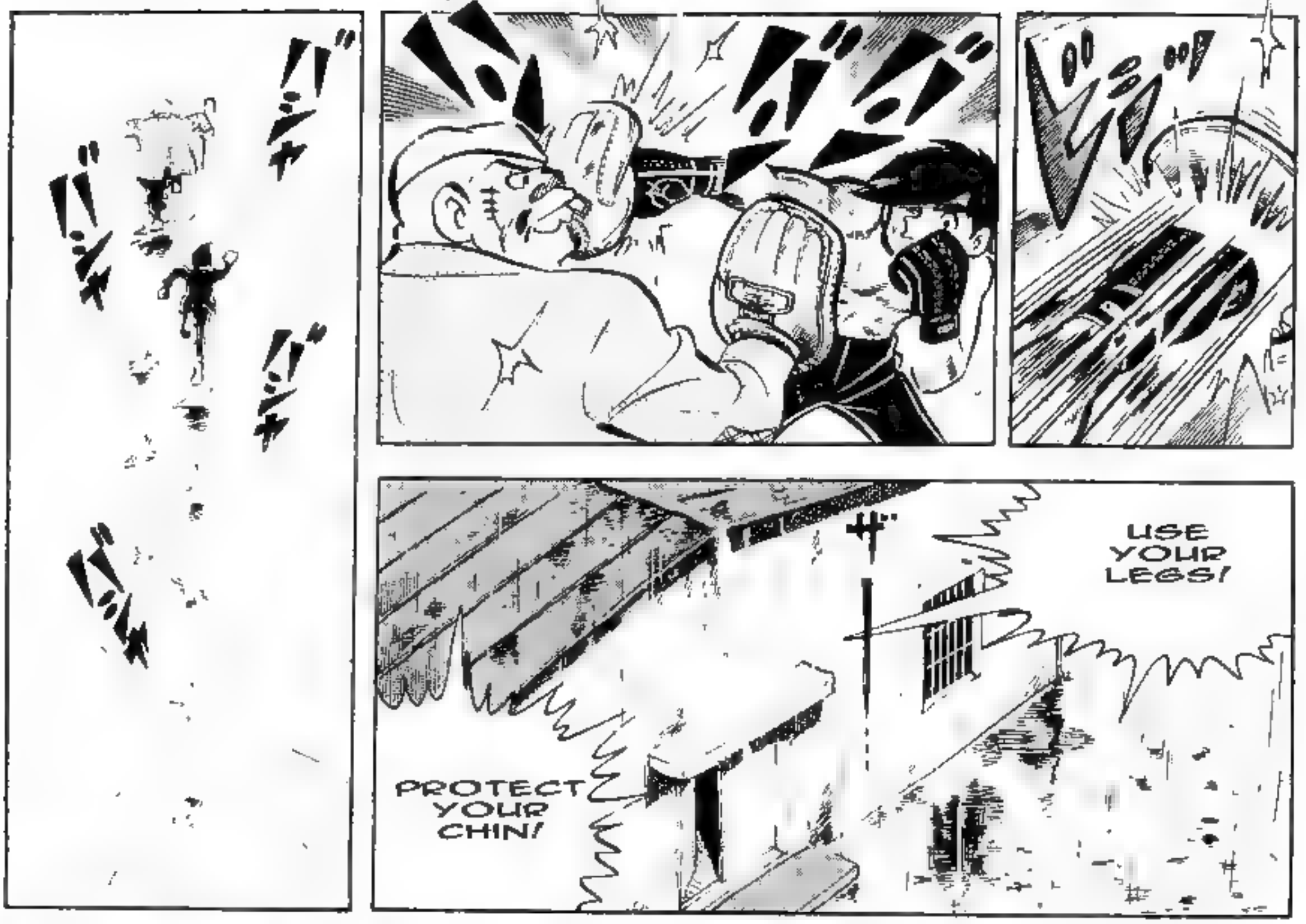
MOVE YOUR FEET!

RAISE YOUR RHYTHM!

TAA!

TAA!

HIII


USE YOUR LEGS!
PROTECT YOUR CHIN!
HO! HO!
HA! HA!
HO! HO!
HA! HA!
CAN'T YOU PROTECT YOUR CHIN!?
はあ
はあ
はあ
YOU AREN'T PROTECTING YOUR CHIN! RAISE YOUR GUARD!

はあ

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はあ

はあ

KU

IF YOU'RE GONNA SLEEP THEN GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM!

WAKE UP! THIS IS THE LIVING ROOM!

YEAH, I GUESS THE OLD MAN GAVE HIM TRAINING AGAIN.

ISN'T THAT YABUKI?

YES, I GUESS

I CAN'T WAKE HIM UP. HE'S SLEEPING LIKE A DEAD MAN.

WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE?

MOVE! AVOID THE OTHER GUY'S RIGHT!

YES! GO!

ONE MORE RIGHT UPPER!

JAB! JAB! USE YOUR LEFT!

WHAT A NICE PUNCH!

HE HIT A GREAT COUNTER TO THE CHIN!

SINCE WHEN THIS PLACE WAS...?

WHAT HAP-PENED?

WILL HE GET UP OR WILL HE LOSE THIS?

HE FIN-ISHED IT NICELY!

HE WON'T GET UP! IT'S A KNOCKOUT! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL FIGHT!

F-I-G-H-T!

FOUR!

THREE!

TWO!

ONE!

TOO BAD IT ENDED IN JUST FOUR ROUNDS...

I WANTED TO SEE MORE...

THE MATCH IS OVER! NOW GO BACK TO YOUR ROOMS AND HAVE SOME SLEEP!

SINCE TONIGHT'S MAIN EVENT WAS SO SHORT WE WILL BROADCAST A VIDEOTAPE OF THE SIX ROUND MATCH WE HAD EARLIER.

THE YOUNG KONGOU SABUROU AGAINST RIKIISHI TOORU!

AAAWUAAA!

IN ORDER TO RAISE THE MORALE OF THE INMATES, THEY WERE ALLOWED TO WATCH SOME TV. HOWEVER, THEY COULD ONLY WATCH SPORTS, CARTOONS AND EDUCATIONAL TV SHOWS.

THE ONLY THING YOU WANT TO DO IS ARM WRESTLING?

SOMEONE WANTS DO DO SOME ARM WRESTLING BEFORE SLEEP?

I SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP TOO.

OFF

WHY DID YOU TURN IT OFF? RIKIISHI'S FIGHT IS GOING TO BE BROADCASTED!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IT'S RIKIISHI!

YES... LOOK!

RIKII-SHI?

DID YOU SAY RIKIISHI?

OH!

OH!

HEY! STOP PUSHING YOU IDIOTS!

OH! IT'S TRUE! RIKIISHI-SAN IS TAKING PART IN THE SIX ROUND MATCH!

SO YOU FINALLY SHOWED UP...

R!... RIKII-SHI...

ON THE BLUE CORNER, FROM SHIRAKI BOXING GYM, WEIGHTING 125 AND A HALF POUNDS,

SIRAKI

ON THE RED CORNER, FROM THE TIGER BOXING CLUB, WEIGHTING 126 POUNDS, KONGOU SABUROU!

RIKIISHI TOORU!

IS IT TRUE? RIKIISHI IS ON THE TV?

RIKIISHI IS FIGTING!

IT'S RIKIISHI!

LOOK! HE CAME FROM THIS JUVENILE PRISON. HE IS SURELY AN EXAMPLE TO BE FOLOWED.

THE SHIRAKI BOXING GYM, WHERE RIKIISHI TOORU TRAINS, WAS CREATED BY THE MILLIONAIRE POLITICIAN SHIRAKI MIKINOSUKE.

DID HE SAY SHIRAKI BOXING GYM?

DID HE...

THE FAMOUS SHIRAKI MIKINOSUKE IS RIGHT HERE, SITTING BY THE RING, ON HIS SIDE IS HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, YOUKO!

BUT NOW HE CREATED AND IS THE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE VERY MODERN SHIRAKI BOXING GYM.

HE HIMSELF WAS AN AMATEUR BOXER WHEN HE WAS YOUNG!

YES!

YOUKO-SAN! YOUKO-SAN!

OH!

IT'S YOUKO-SAN!

TO GET SO MUCH OF YOUKO-SAN'S ATTENTION... RIKIISHI IS A LUCKY GUY!

SHE EVEN BUILT A NEW GYM FOR HIM!

I AM ENVIOUS OF HIM!

ALL THE TIME SHE CAME HERE WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF RIKIISHI.

BLAH BLAH BLAH

BLAH BLAH BLAH

I FEEL KIND OF JEALOUS!

IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SOME OF RIKIISHI'S LUCK!

JUST START THIS FIGHT QUICKLY!

HEH... SO RIKIISHI IS...

CALM DOWN...

HEY! NISHI, I CAN'T SEE!

IT HAS BEGUN!

YEAH! FIGHT RIKIISHI!

SHOW HIM WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED HERE!

MAKE THE NAME TOUKOU JUVENILE PRISON FAMOUS!

GO RIKIISHI!

YES! IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S SLIDING ON THE RING!

RIKIISHI... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ON A TWO YEAR BREAK, HE'S SHOWING SOME GREAT FOOTWORK!

HE HITS IT RIGHT ON TARGET!

AND RIKIISHI STARTS WITH A JAB!

YES! CONTINUE LIKE THAT!

HIT HIM!

THAT WAS A NICE ONE!

OH! ANOTHER RIGHT!

LEFT!

RIGHT!

RIKIISHI LOOKS LIKE A BEAST WHEN RELEASED OF IT'S CHAINS! HE JUST CHARGES PUNCHING KONGOU!

WHEN RIKIISHI WAS HERE YELLING ALL THE TIME YOU ALL WEREN'T SO HAPPY ABOUT HIM. BUNCH OF IDIOTS.

RIKIISHI! SUR-ROUND HIM!

RIKIISHI CHASES HIM!

KONGOU GOES FOR THE ROPES!

WE MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE KONGOU. HE'S NOT DEAD YET.

DO YOUR BEST RIKIISHI!

YOU'RE STRONG! GO! GO!

YES! GO! GO!

TOO NOISY!

OUCH!

AIM FOR HIS BODY!

CORNER HIM!

SHIT...

RIKIISHI CONTIN-UES THE RUSH! HE CORNERS HIS OPPO-NENT!

THE FIGHT-ERS ARE AT THE ROPES!

AH!

A... A... AH!

AH!

OH!

KONGOU HITS AN INCREDI-BLY POWER-FUL COUNTER!

RIKII-SHI IS DOWN!

K.O.

UH?

RIKIISHI IS LAUGH-ING?

DO YOUR BEST RIKIISHI!

IS HE OKAY? HIS BODY IS MOVING STRANGELY.

PHEEW! HE GOT UP!

HE GETS UP AT THE COUNT OF EIGHT!

KONGOU WAVES HIS BODY AND CHARGES!

FIGHT!

THE MATCH CONTINUES!

RIKIISHI STRIKES!

HE GETS COUNTERED ONCE MORE!

BUT...

HANG IN THERE!

WHAT'S HAPPENING RIKIISHI?

KEH!

RIKIISHI GETS CORNERED AT THE ROPES!

HE RETURNS TO HIS CORNER HELPED BY HIS SECOND!

AND WITH THE GONG ROUND ONE IS OVER! RIKIISHI WAS SAVED THERE!

STOP!

IT SEEMS RIKII-SHI HAS A CUT ABOVE HIS LEFT EYE! HIS SECOND IS TRYING TO CLOSE IT!

SIRAKI

TO BECOME A PRO YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG!

TO THINK THAT SOMEONE COULD FIGHT RIKIISHI-SAN LIKE THAT!

HE WAS IN A DANGER-OUS SITU-ATION!

OH! YOUKO-SAN IS GETTING UP!

HIS TWO YEAR BLANK IS STARTING TO SHOW...

SO WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF

THIS IS RIKIISHI'S FIRST MATCH IN A LONG TIME

RIKIISHI SEEMS TO HAVE UNDER-STOOD.

SHE'S SAYING SOME WORDS...

AND KONGOU GETS UP FULL OF ENERGY!

THERE'S THE GONG FOR THE BEGGINING OF THE SECOND ROUND!

AND KONGOU ATTACKS AGAIN!

HE'S TRYING TO END IT QUICKLY!

RIKIISHI ALSO GETS UP!

HE THROWS TWO... NO THREE HOOKS!

OH!

RIKIISHI IS AT THE ROPES AGAIN! NO! HE GOES AROUND HIS OPPONENT!

YES! YES!

NOW IT IS KONGOU WHO IS AT THE ROPES!

AND RIKIISHI WITH A LEFT! HE'S PAYING BACK ALL THE PUNISH-MENT HE GOT!

BEAT HIM UP!

CON-TINUE HITTING! KNOCK HIM OUT!

AND WHAT A RUSH! IT'S LIKE HE WAS BORN AGAIN!

RIKIISHI ATTACKS!

THE RIGHT UPPER! THE OPPONENT IS TOO WEAK, IT WILL SEND HIM FLYING! USE A RIGHT UPPER!

NOW! DO IT!

IT'S OVER...

HE DID IT! A DOWN!

NICE! IT'S A KO!

CONTINUE SLEEPING!

DON'T GET UP! YOU'RE ALL HURT!

TWO!

ONE!

THREE!

NOW, DON'T GET UP! YOU WON'T GET UP!

WHAT'S ALL THAT?

HE DID IT! HE DID IT!

IT'S A KO! ROUND TWO, ONE MINUTE AND FIFTEEN SECONDS!

RIKIISHI TOORU MAKES AN INCREDIBLE COMEBACK AFTER A TWO YEAR BLANK!

MAYBE IT'S A GOOD SIGN. IT WOULD BE NICE IF RIKIISHI WORKED AS AN EXAMPLE FOR HIS BEHAVIOR.

FROM ALL INMATES, THE ONE I LEAST EXPECTED TO BE SO EXCITED IS YABUKI.

BUT I'M KIND OF TIRED NOW...

THAT WAS NICE

AND BY HIS SIDE YOUKO-SAN. THEY ARE CONGRATU-LATING RIKII-SHI FOR HIS GREAT WIN!

AND THERE'S SHIRAKI MIKINO-SUKE!

CELE-BRATE WHILE YOU CAN.

YES.

JOE, YOU'RE A WIERD GUY.

YABU KI-SAN . . .

EH ?

RIKIISHI, SHOW EVERYONE HOW STRONG YOU ARE NOW, CAUSE WHEN WE MEET IN THE RING IT WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT. WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE I'LL BEAT YOU UP!

....
....

IT WILL BE FUN TO SEE THAT LOOK.

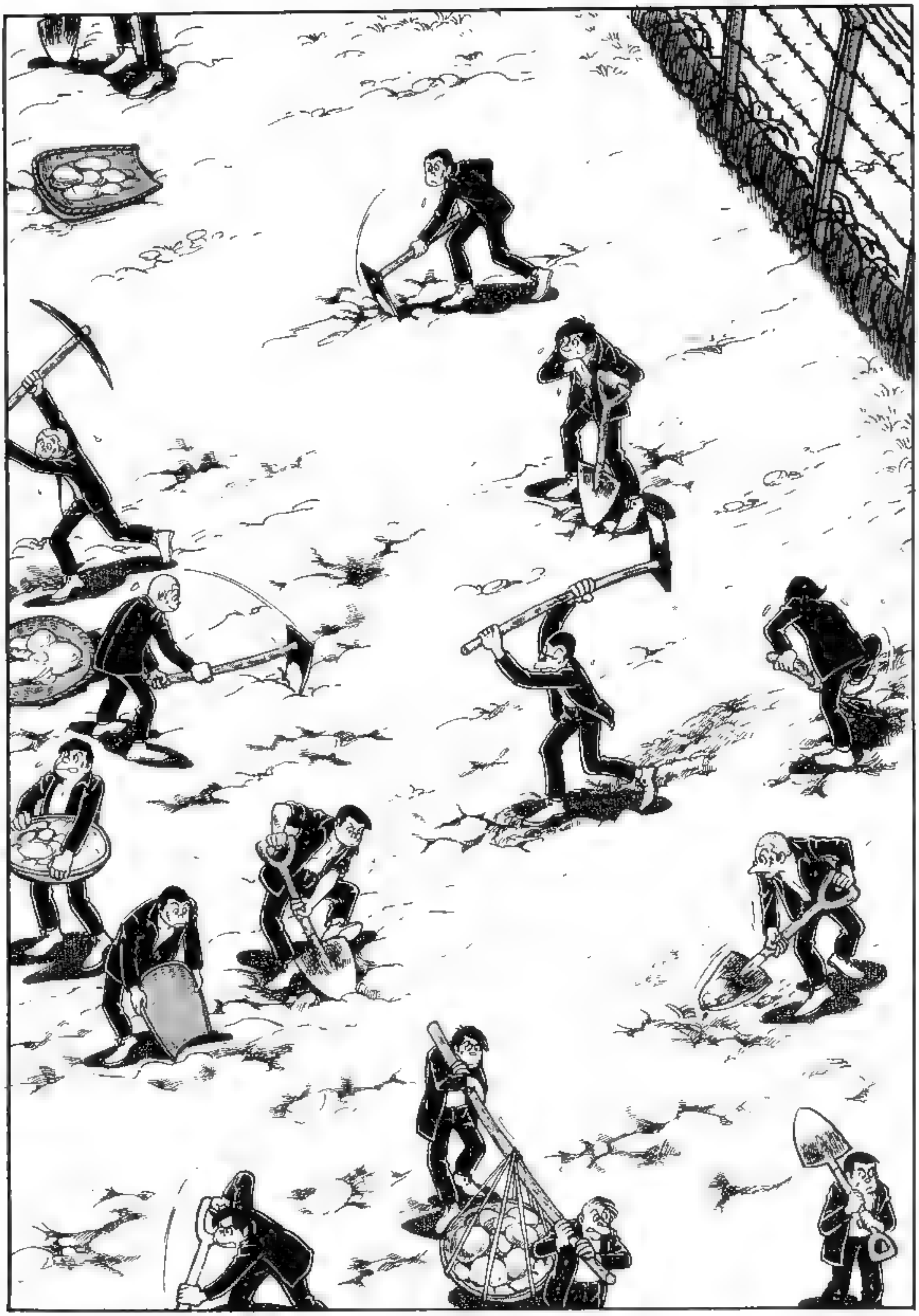
HEH WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WHAT WILL BE THE LOOK ON MISS YOUKO'S FACE?

I GUESS SEEING THAT LOOK IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE NOW.

DUE TO JOE'S FAILED ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE, HIS RELEASE DAY WAS POSTPONED.

SOME TIME LATER... NISHI AND AOYAMA HAD ALREADY LEFT THE PRISON.

BUT IT CAME, THE DAY WHEN JOE YABUKI LEAVES PRISON.



SO THE DAY COMES, EVEN FOR A TROUBLE-MAKER LIKE HIM.

EH!

TODAY THAT IDIOT, YABUKI, IS LEAVING THIS PLACE.

DID YOU HEAR?

WON'T THERE BE A FAREWELL CERIMONY?

HOWEVER, THE ONLY ROAD OUT OF THIS PLACE IS RIGHT BY THIS FIELD, SO WE'LL HAVE THE CHANCE TO SEE HIM ONCE MORE.

NO, IF THERE IS ONE PERSON WHO WOULD NEVER DO ONE IT'S JOE.

I'VE GOT A PURPOSE IN LIFE, HE SAYS.

THAT GUY. HE ALWAYS HAS THAT ANGRY LOOK IN HIS FACE.

YEAH! YOURE RIGHT, I WANT TO SAY SOME THINGS TO THAT IDIOT.

THERE HE IS!
SPEAKING OF HIM...

HE'S ALREADY PUT ON REGULAR CLOTHES, NOW HE'S WALKING ALL PUFFED WITH PRIDE!
HE'S WITH THAT ONE-EYED OLD MAN!
HEH THAT'S NICE!

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR EVERYTHING
YOU! YOU LOWER YOUR HEAD! THANK THEM PROPPERLY!

HEY! YABUKI!
I GUESS THIS PLACE WILL BE A BIT QUIETER NOW HE'S GONE.

LOOK! EVERYONE IS SAYING GOODBYE!
THAT'S OK, THAT'S OK. DO YOUR BEST FROM NOW ON.

HURRY UP AND DISSAPPEAR! NOBODY WANTS YOU HERE!
ARE YOU LISTENING? WHEN YOU GO AWAY WE'LL ALL BE MUCH HAPPIER!
HEH! WHO HERE IS REGRETING YOUR DEPAR-TURE?

DON'T WORRY

IF YOU HIT ANY OF THEM YOU'LL END UP BACK IN PRISON!

F" F" F"

THOSE IDIOTS!

NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY, THEY CAN'T GO PAST THE FENCES.

STOP PLEASE!

WAIT A MINUTE, YABUKI!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'LL JUST SAY GOODBYE TO THEM.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

HEHEHE YABUKI YOU IDIOT!

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN COME HIT US!

WE'RE NOT EVEN A BIT AFRAID OF YOU!

YOU'VE GOT SOME GUTS COMING HERE!

IF I LOOK CAREFULLY, YOU GUYS RESEMBLE A BUNCH OF MONKEYS IN THE ZOO! THEY ALWAYS STAY CLOSE TO THE FENCE TRYING TO GET OUT AND WHINING BECAUSE THEY CAN'T!

WHY ARE YOU ALL MOVING AND TALKING SO MUCH?

WHAT?

SHIT!

DID HE SAY WHAT I HEARD?

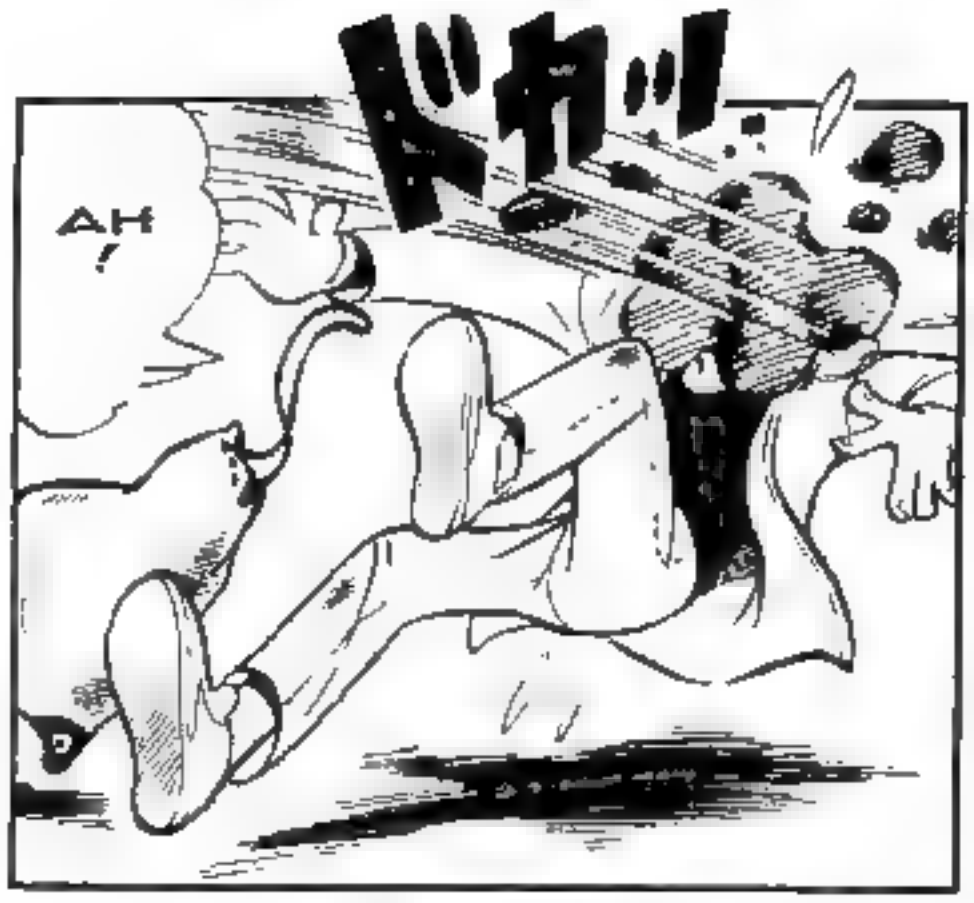
YOU FUCKIN'...

UH!

SHIT! I'LL SHOW YOU YABUKI!

WILL THEY COME GET ME?

OH! I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE THE GORILAS MAD!


ドカ!!
AH!

WHY DONT YOU EAT THIS!

THAT WAS A NICE SHOT!
WAHAHAHA! HAHAHAHA! HAHAHAHA!

AH!
OH NO!

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOME!

THAT WASN'T NICE.
SHIT!

WE CAN'T LOSE TO HIM!

THAT GUY!

UWAA!

UGH!

AH!

LET'S GET MORE SHOVELS!

TAKE THIS!

YOU IDIOT!

AAHH!

STOP IT! THIS IS NO PLACE TO DO THIS!

TAKE THIS YOU IDIOT!

YOU WAN'T MORE? HAVE MORE!

SHIT!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT JOE?

YES!

NOW WE CAN'T LOSE THIS!

HOW DARE YOU HIT ME!?

I'LL PUT YOU ALL IN THE INTRO-SPECTION CELL!

NOW EVERY-THING IS DIRTY

HA... HA...

HA... HA...

TO THINK THAT THE GUARDS AND EVEN THE OLD MAN WOULD ENTER THE FIGHT...

ショリ

IT WENT INSIDE...

KEH KEH

LET'S GO OLD MAN.

AT LEAST I HAD SOME FUN.

YES

IT TURNED OUT TO BE A PRETTY STRANGE SCENE.

HEH

EH... AH...

YES. GET UP OLD MAN.

YOU'RE ALREADY GOING?

WHAT?

DON'T WORRY, GOOD-BYE.

SO, GOOD BYE.

SORRY FOR EVERY-THING.

FOR ALL GUARDS

SEE YOU!

I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT.

AND I'LL MAKE A PILE OF GARBAGE ON TOP OF YOU!

YABUKI! THE NEXT TIME WE MEET I'LL DRENCH YOU IN MUDDY WATER!

DID YOU HEAR THIS?!

SAY WHAT— EVER YOU WANT...

YOU IDIOT!

YOU PUMPKIN HEAD IDIOT!

GOOD BYE!

I'LL BEAT YOU NEXT TIME!

YOU SHIT— HEAD!

BOOOBYE JOE! GOOD LUCK!

....

BUT NOW HE'S GONE, THERE'S THIS STRANGE SADNESS. WHAT AN INTERESTING GUY, YABUKI...

WHEN HE WAS HERE EVERY-ONE FOUGHT WITH HIM.

YOU ALSO THINK SO?

DOESN'T IF LOOK AS IF EVERYONE HAS LOST SOME OF THEIR ENERGY?

STOP IT!

THIS SMELL... WHAT A NICE SMELL...

HMM...

EEH!

EH! THAT GUY, ISN'T THAT JOE?

THIS PLACE BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

DID YOU SAY JOE?

HEY EVERY-ONE! JOE HAS COME BACK!

JOE IS BACK!

EH! ISN'T IT JOE?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME! NICE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN!

OH! YOU'VE GROWN UP A LOT!

I HEARD THAT THE FOOD THEY MAKE AT THE JUVENILE PRISON IS VERY BAD!

DID YOU LOSE SOME WEIGHT?

YOU'RE BECOMING A GREAT MAN!

YES! YOU'RE ALMOST AN ADULT NOW!

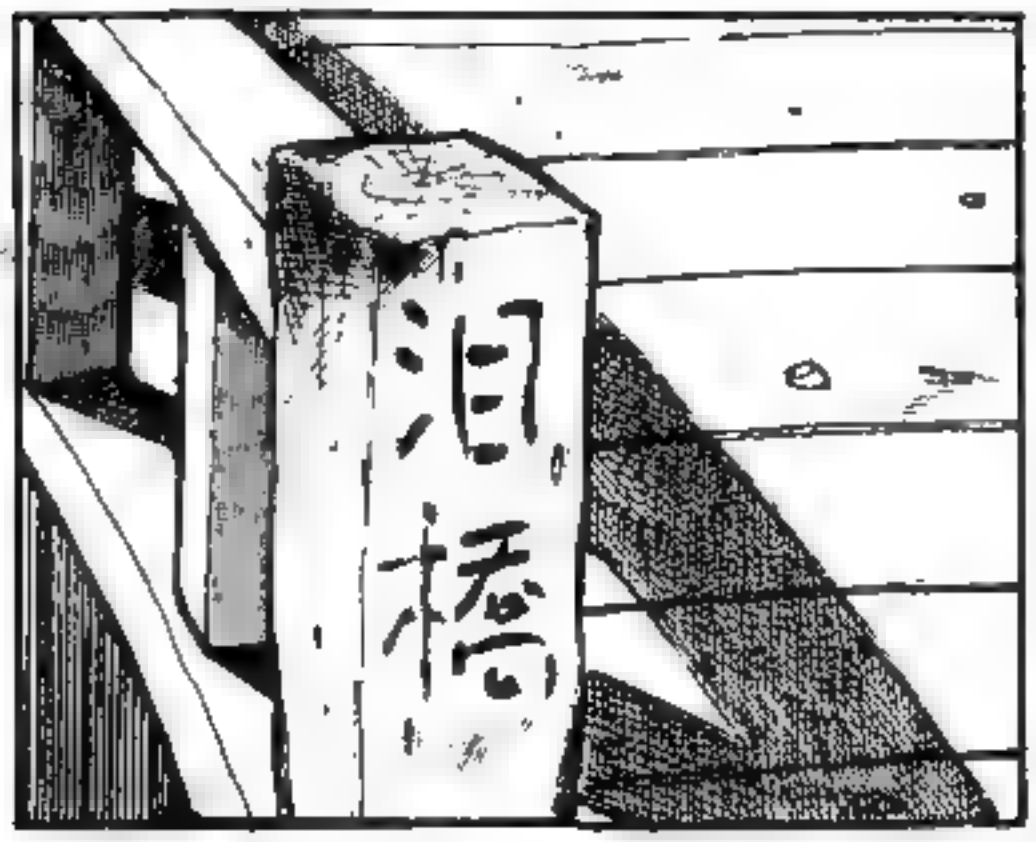
WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS? WHERE ARE THOSE LITTLE GUYS?

THIS CAN WAIT!

THIS HURTS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NOW! COME HERE!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!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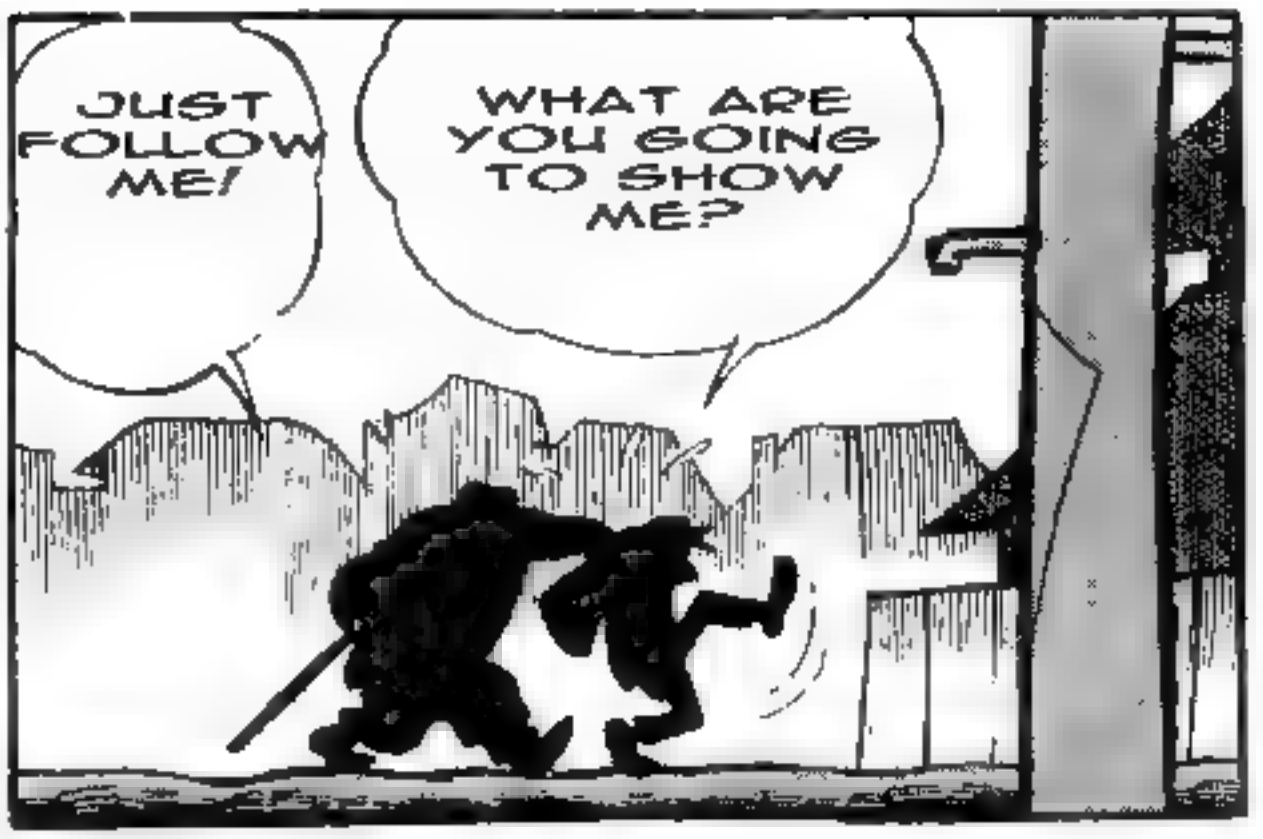
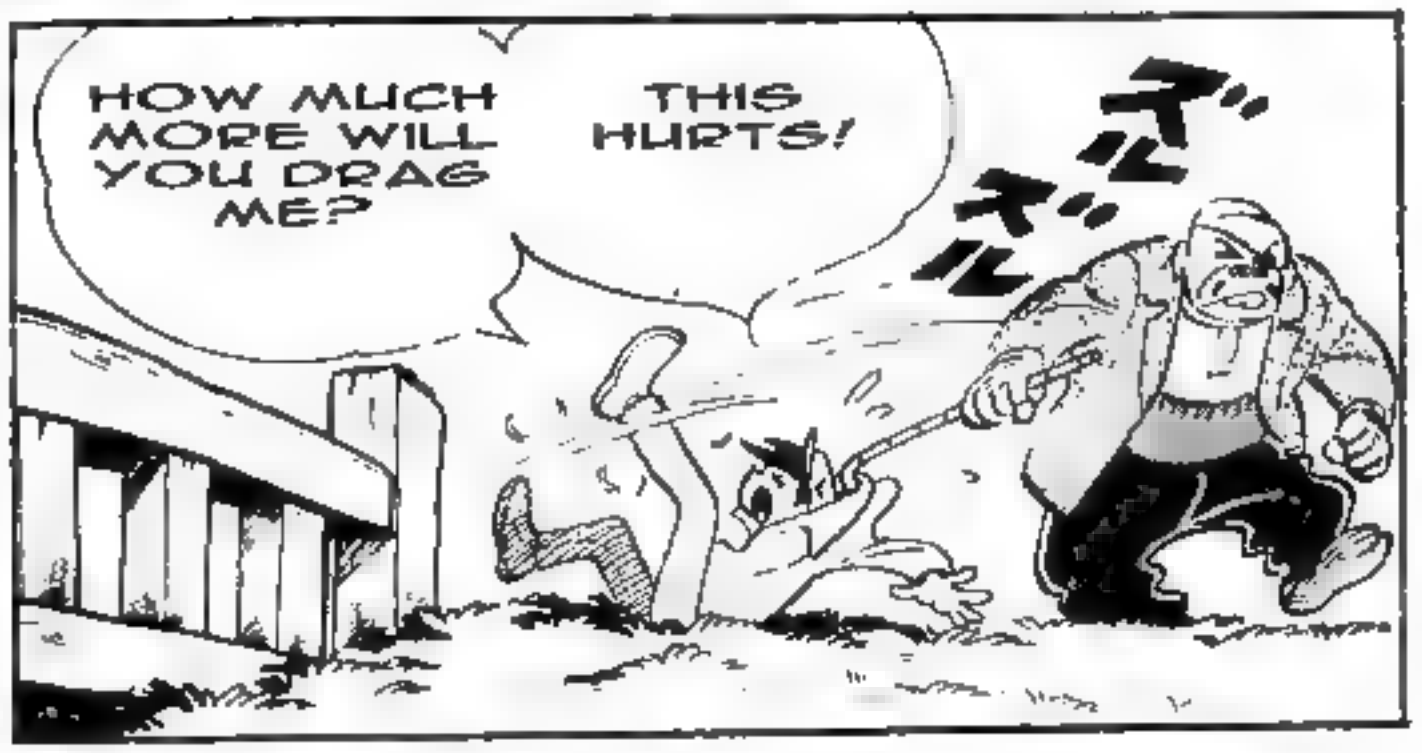

JUST FOLLOW ME!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW ME?

THIS IS IT! LOOK UNDER THE BRIDGE!


HOW MUCH MORE WILL YOU DRAG ME?
THIS HURTS!

UNDER THE BRIDGE?
AH!

TANGE BOXING CLUB!

四下拳闘17

YES! THE TANGE BOXING CLUB! THIS WILL BE THE PLACE FROM WHERE WE WILL ENTER THE PRO BOXING WORLD!

...

HE...HE'S...HE'S BACK! JOE! JOE IS BACK!

EH!

KINOKO!

BROTHER JOE!

CHUUKICHI!

SACHI!

TON-KICHI!

TAROU!

WE ALL WELCOME YOU BACK BROTHER JOE!

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME.

THIS IS WHAT YAKUZA MEMBERS SAY ONE TO ANOTHER WHEN THEY MEET AFTER A LONG TIME! I SAW IT IN A MOVIE!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT!

ドドド

YOU'VE GOTTEN QUITE HEAVY!

AH!

STOP IT, PLEASE!

COME HERE SACHI!

NO! WAIT!

HEHE!

TONKICHI! AS FOR YOU, YOU CAN BECOME A SUMO WRES-TLER!

HEHE!

CHUU-KICHI! YOU TOO!

HIHIH!

YOU TOO!

ガバッ

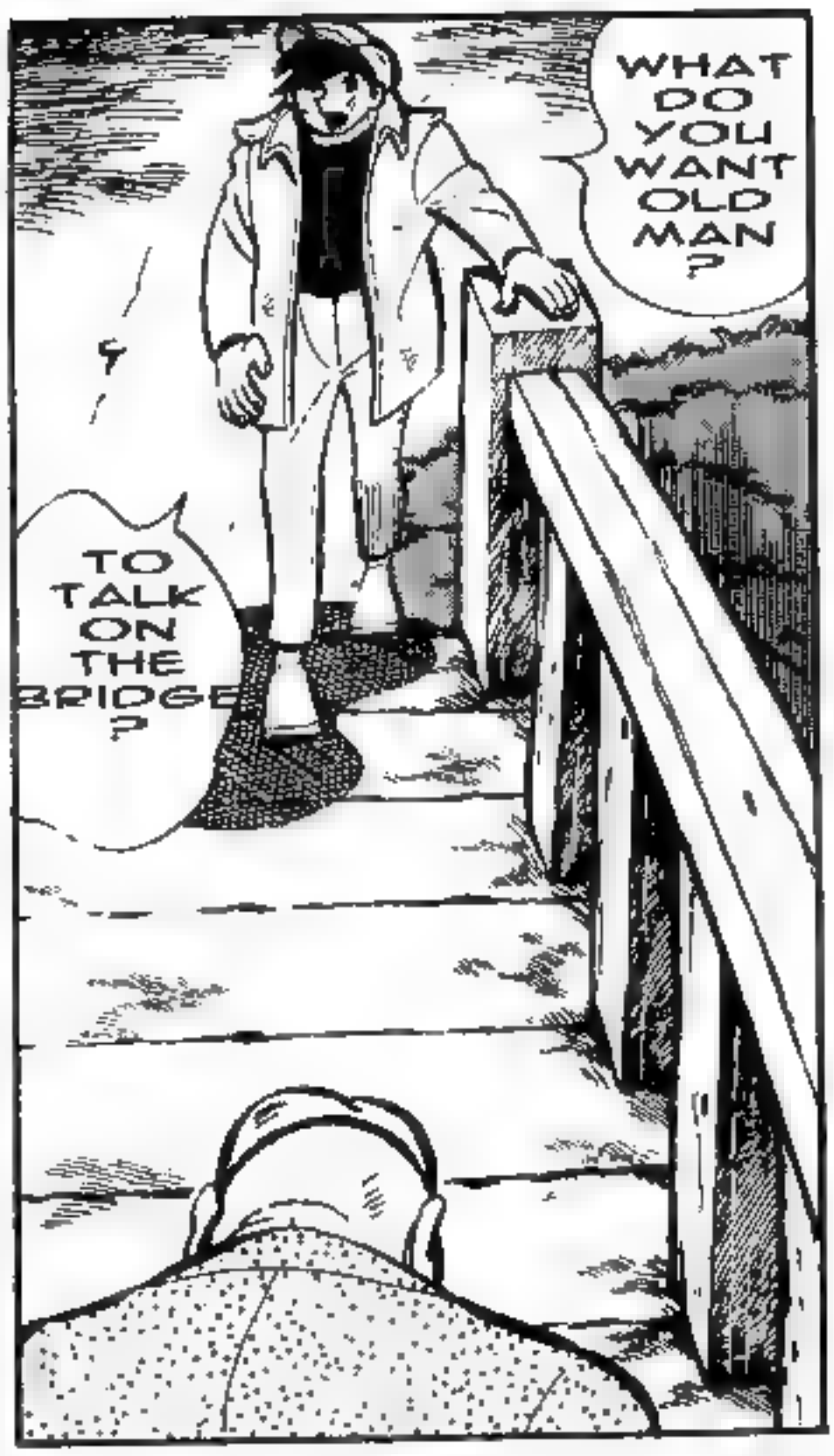
AS FOR YOU TAROU, YOU ARE TOO BIG FOR THIS.

KOO

COME HERE PLEASE

JOE

THE BRIDGE OF TEARS.
THIS BRIDGE'S KNOWN AS
?....


WHAT DO YOU WANT OLD MAN?
TO TALK ON THE BRIDGE?

AND THE WANDERED AROUND CRYING ABOUT THEIR LIVES.
PEOPLE WHO FAILED IN LIFE, OR WERE TIRED OF THE LIFE THEY WERE HAVING CAME HERE.

BUT NOW, LETS CROSS THIS BRIDGE TOGEHTER, LETS TAKE A STEP TOWAROS THE SUCCESS THAT AWAITS US IN THE FUTURE!
BUT.....

.....
I GUESS YOU WERE LIKE THAT TOO...
THREE YEARS AGO I WAS LIKE THAT...

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING JOE?
EH?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

IF YOU UNDER-STAND THEN IT'S OK!

THAT'S GOOD!

YES, OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND! I JUST THINK YOU ARE OVERDOING IT.

BUT YOU MUST NOT CRY THE TEARS OF A LOSER, YOU MUST CRY TEARS THAT MIX UP WITH THE SWEAT OF YOUR HARD WORK!

BUT . . .

IN THE PRO BOXING WORLD A BOXER GOES THROUGH MANY DIFFICULT SITUATIONS. IN SOME OF THEM YOU MAY EVEN CRY.

THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS I BUILT THE GYM UNDER THIS BRIDGE. IT WILL ALWAYS MAKE YOU REMEMBER THIS.

LET'S GO THROUGH THE DIFFICULT MOMENTS TOGETHER, AND CROSS THE BRIDGE

SO, JOE

丹下拳闘クラブ

AH!

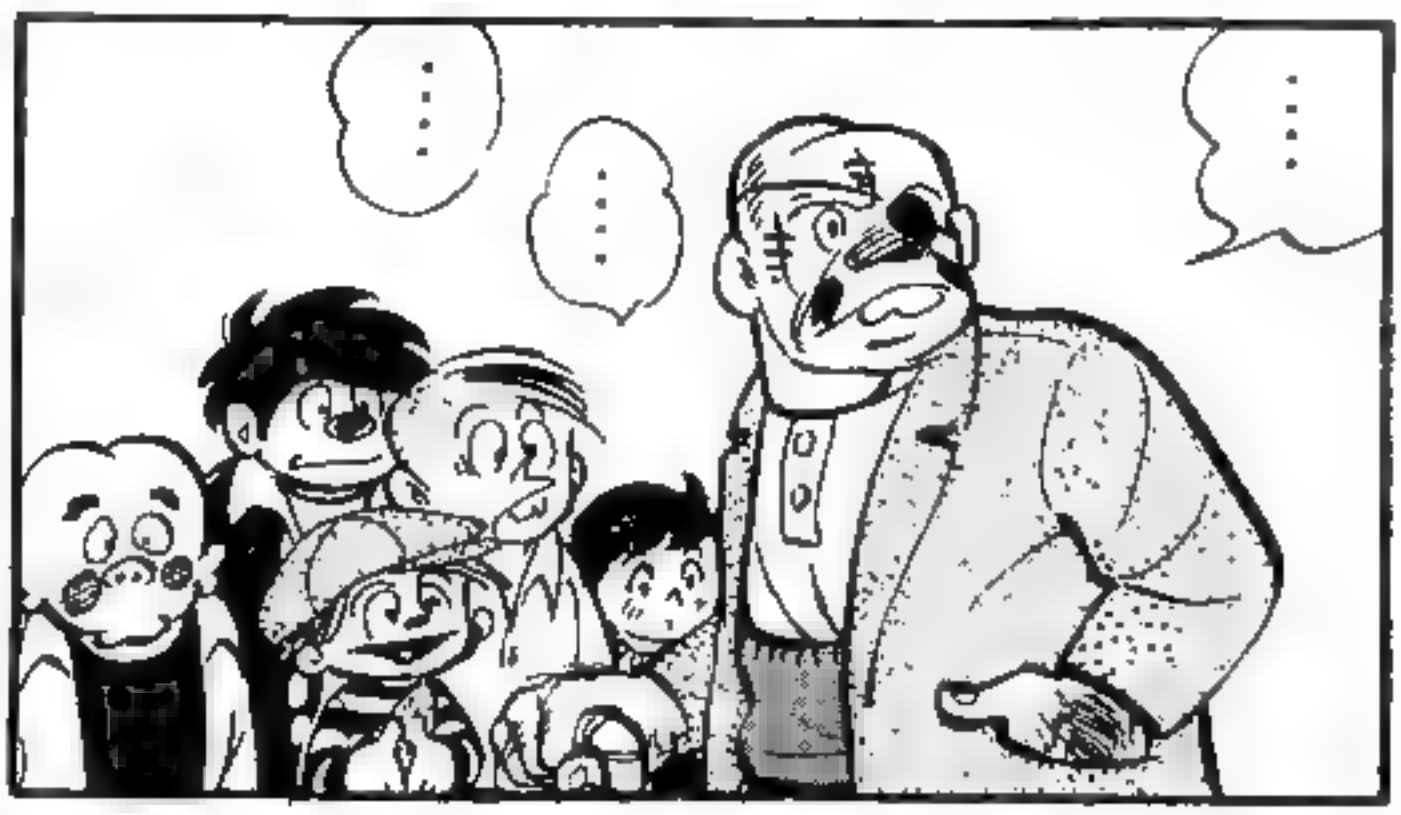
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

NOW,

LET'S GO SEE THE INSIDE.

WE WILL CROSS THIS BRIDGE OF TEARS . . .

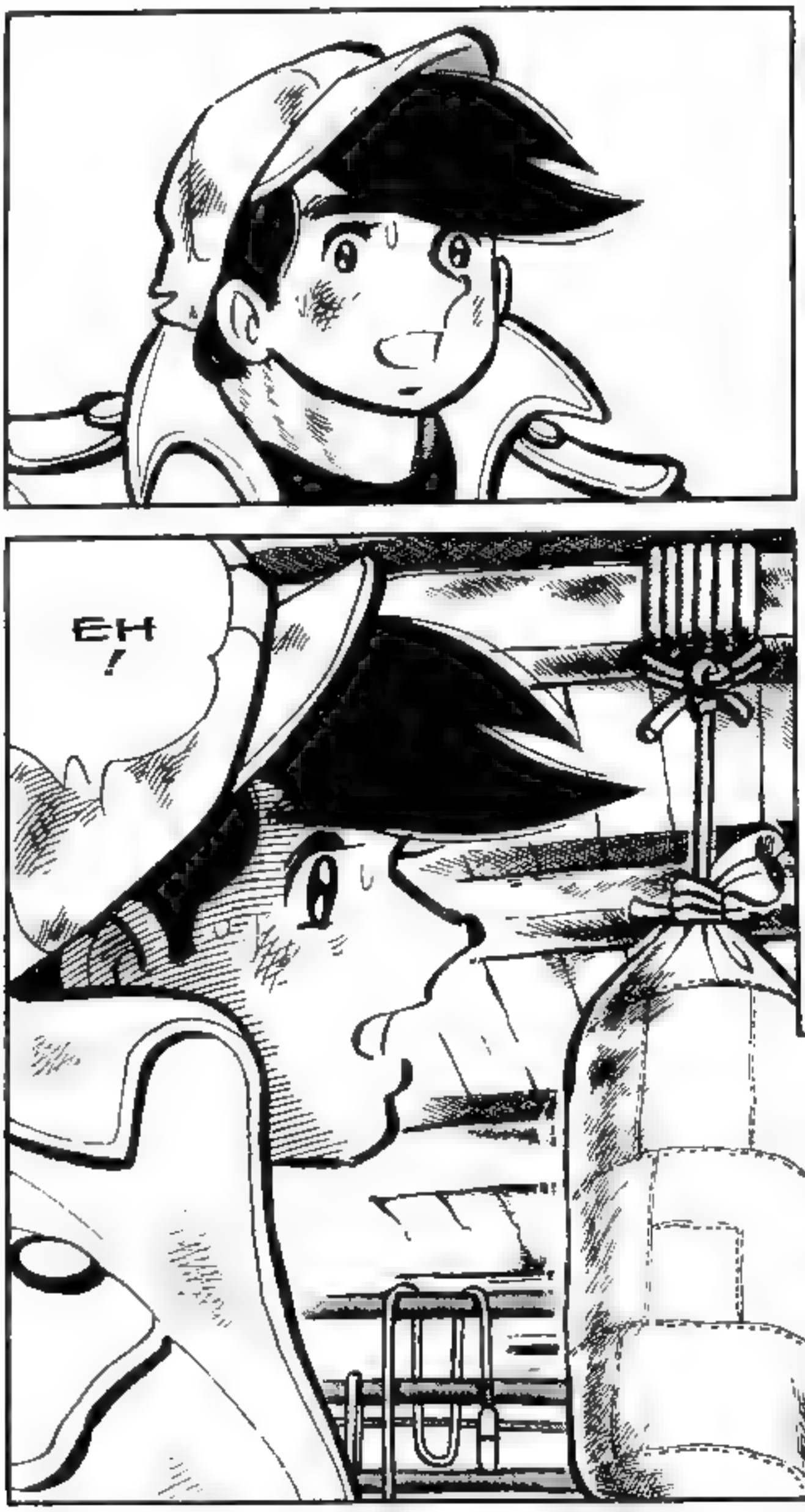
YOU SURE TALK WELL OLD MAN!


. . . .
. . . .
. . . .

WHAT DOES A KID NOW ABOUT THAT?

EVEN THOUGH JOE DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING, HE WAS TOUCHED BY WHAT YOU SAID.

YES! LET'S GO INSIDE!
COME JOE. TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR GYM.


EH
!

HE
HE
HE
WHAT DO YOU THINK? ISN'T IT GREAT?

YES, EVEN THOUGH IT IS SMALL, IT'S GREAT FOR PRACTICE.
IT EVEN HAS A RING!

HOWEVER, THEY'RE ALL SECOND HAND OR HAND-MADE.

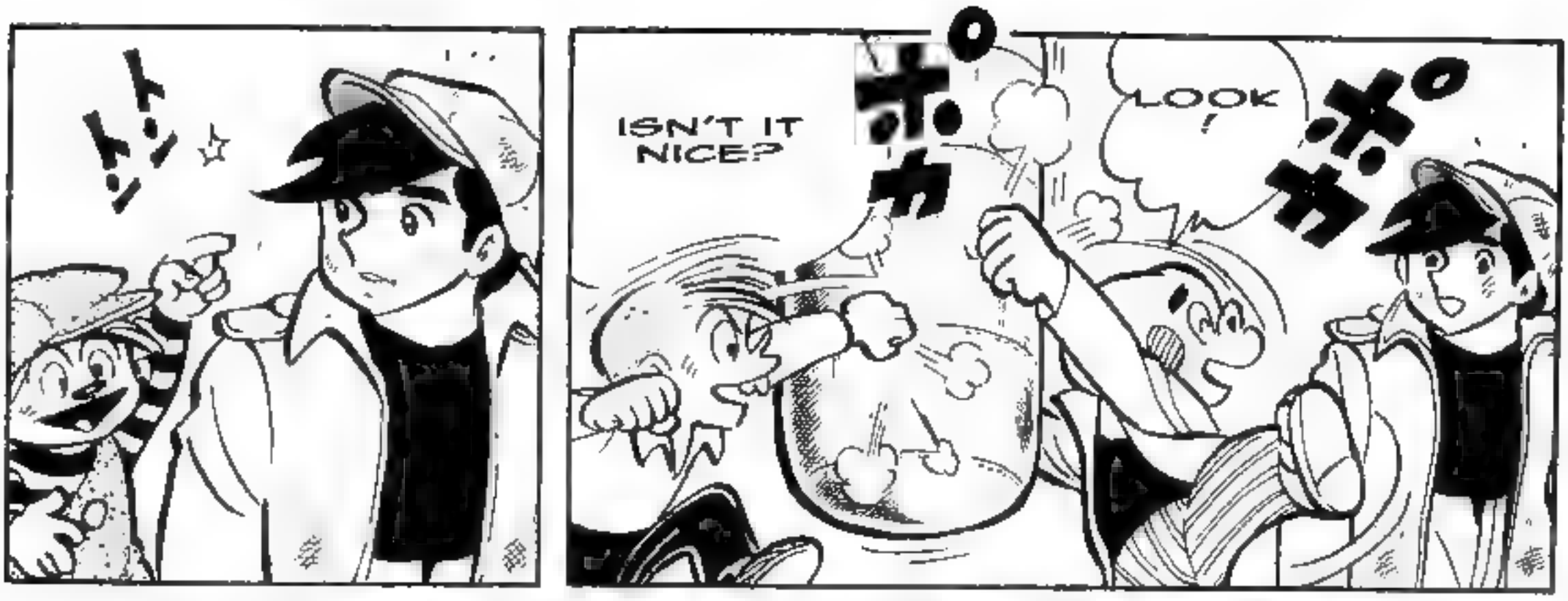
WE'VE GOT A SCALE TO CHECK YOUR WEIGHT.

A MATRESS AND A MEDICINE BALL OVER THERE.

WE ALSO HAVE GLOVES AND HEADGEAR.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE SANDBAG? WE MADE IT!

THOSE MITTS! I MADE THEM MYSELF!


ﾄﾝﾄﾝ☆
ISN'T IT NICE?
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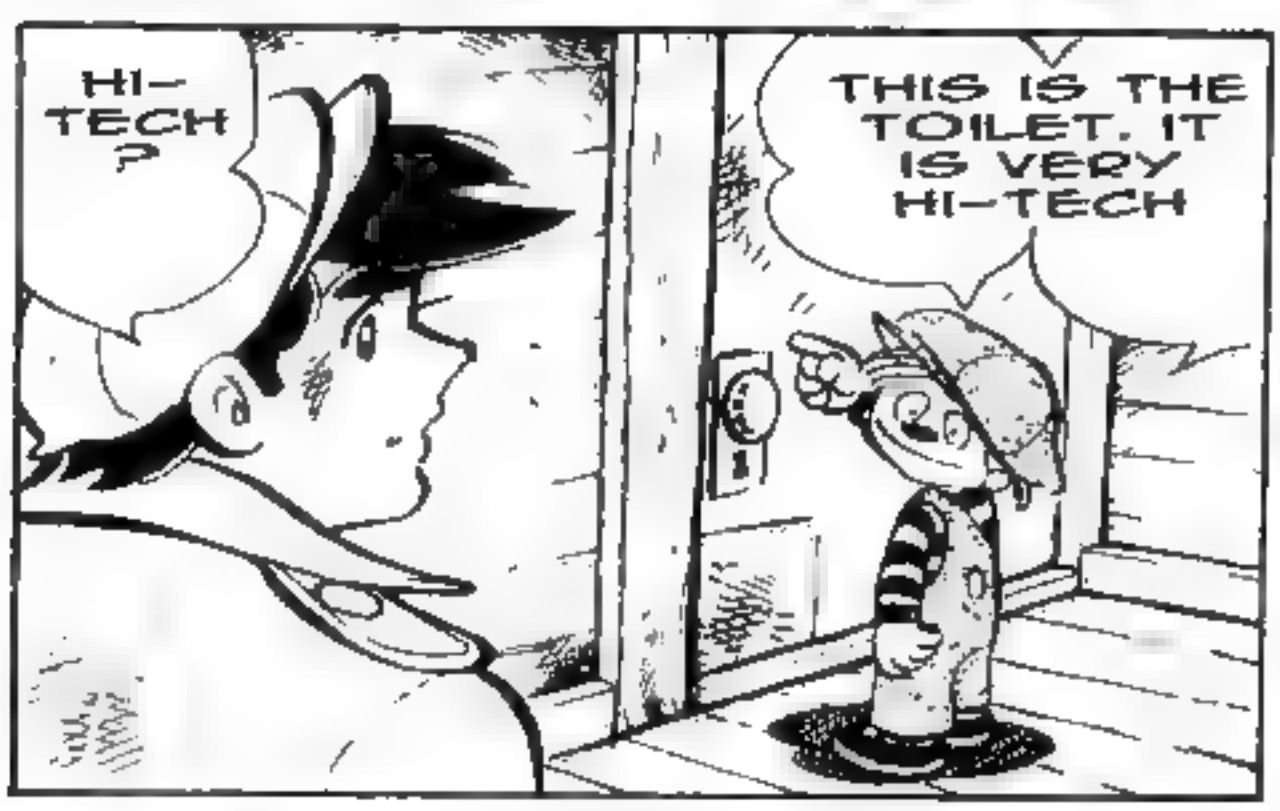
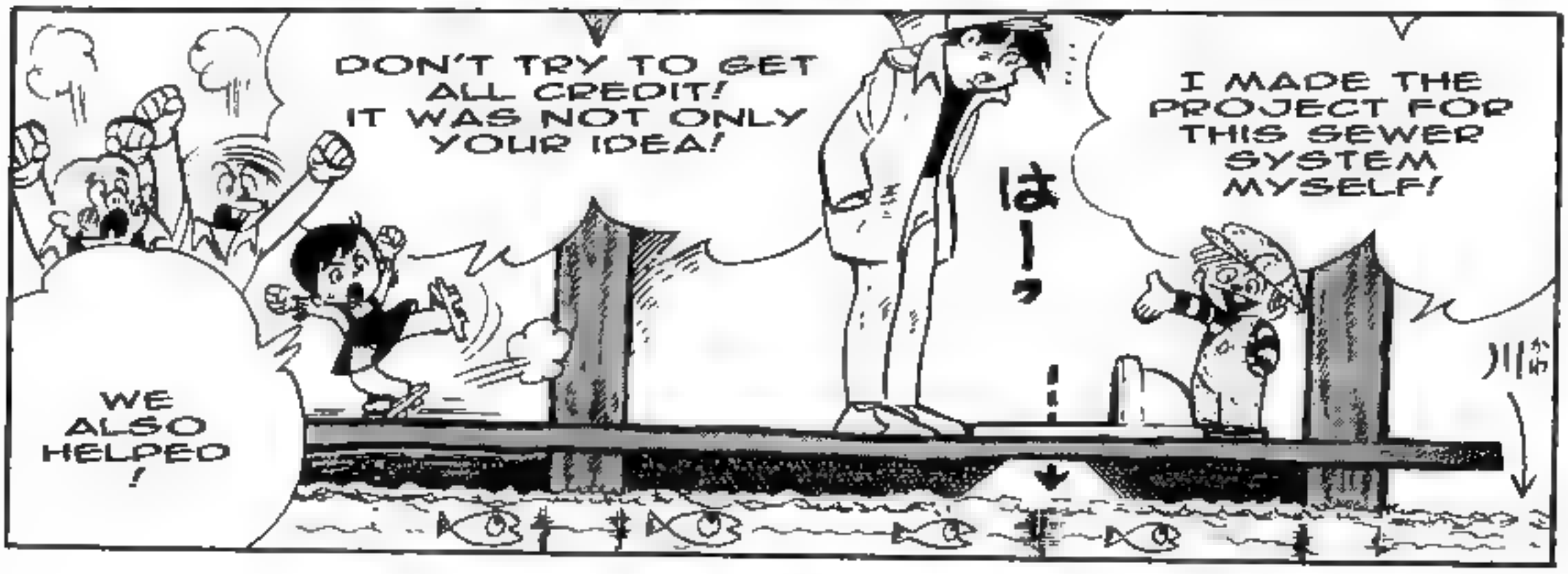
LOOK!


HI-TECH?
THIS IS THE TOILET. IT IS VERY HI-TECH

JUST A MOMENT
ﾄﾝﾄﾝ
COME HERE FOR A MINUTE.

COME! IT DOESN'T SMELL AT ALL!
IT'S A COM-PLETELY CLEAN TOILET!


DON'T TRY TO GET ALL CREDIT! IT WAS NOT ONLY YOUR IDEA!
WE ALSO HELPED!
はーっ
I MADE THE PROJECT FOR THIS SEWER SYSTEM MYSELF!

WHAT? THIS PLACE HAS A SHOWER?

NOW LET ME SHOW YOU THE SHOWER ROOM.

やっぱり

I DID THIS SO THAT BROTHER JOE CAN HAVE A REFRESHING SHOWER AFTER A DAY OF HARSH TRAINING!

YOU JUST HAVE TO PULL THIS ROPE.

DOESN'T MATTER WHO HAD THE IDEA! WE ALL HELPED!

THIS WAS ANOTHER OF MY PROJECTS.

UP ON THE ROOF THERE IS A DRUM THAT STORES THE WATER.

ドドドドド

SACHI! YOU IDIOT!

HE PULLED IT!

RUN!

ガー

THAT WAS NOT A NICE THING TO DO SACHI!

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?

HEHE! I'M SORRY!

WELL, I GUESS IT WORKS

THERE'S EVEN A MIRROR TO PERFECT MY FORM.

AND OVER THERE A NICE PUNCHING BALL.

TANGE DAMEI

YABUKI JOE

MAMMOTH NISHI

MAMMOTH NISHI

MAM-MOTH NISHI ?

YOU'VE FINALLY LEFT THAT PLACE HUH?

IDIOT !

WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING? IS IT A PRESENT FOR ME?

YOU'RE BACK MAMMOTH! WELCOME BACK MAMMOTH!

YOU'LL TRY TO BE A PRO?

THAT MEANS ...

WELL, THERE'S FIGHTING HARADA, BENKEI FUJIKURA, I JUST THOUGHT OF HAVING A NICKNAME.

HEHE

MAMMOTH NISHI? IS THAT YOU?

I'LL DO MY BEST.

ガリ ガリ

NOW I WANT TO SEE HOW FAR I CAN GO

I STARTED BOXING AT THE JUVENILE PRISON, AND I LIKED IT.

AHA HA!

I'M NOW WORKING AT A STORE,

SORRY FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO PICK YOU UP TODAY.

I HAD TO WORK TODAY.

. . . .

WHEN YOU START BOXING IT IS HARD TO GIVE UP.

THAT... THAT'S OK OLD MAN!

DID YOU SEE THE PUNCHING BALL? THE MIRROR? THE HEADGEAR? HIS WORK BOUGHT THEM ALL.

NISHI WORKS AT THE STORE TO HELP THE GYM.

YOU SHOULD CALL HIM COACH!

MAMMOTH! YOU CAN'T CALL HIM OLD MAN!

THE OLD MAN...

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE HELPED WITH A PART OF MY SALARY, YOU, OLD MAN, HAVE ALSO WORKED FOR THIS GYM TO BE BUILT.

HE GAVE HIS BLOOD FOR THE CON-STRUCTION OF THE TANGE BOXING CLUB!

IDIOT!

WATCH YOUR MOUTH!

YES, I GUESS. WELL, THE COACH HAS BEEN WORKING ALL DAY AND NIGHT!

YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT KIND OF THING!

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU OLD MAN!

HE'S EMBAR-RASSED! IT'S FUNNY!

YES, TAKE THE KIDS TO THE KITCHEN AND COOK DINNER.

THAT'S OK, STOP IT NISHI. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME WE GAVE JOE SOMETHING TO EAT?

LETS GO AND COOK DINNER!

LET ME SEE WHAT'S IN THERE!

EH!

THIS IS FOR TODAY'S DINNER.

TAKE THIS.

AH!

SO MUCH FOOD!

WOW!

GET ALL THIS AND TAKE IT TO THE KITCHEN.

DON'T PLAY WITH FOOD.

OH!

THEY TOLD ME IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE HAD A PARTY TO CELEBRATE!

NO, WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE STORE HEARD THAT A FRIEND OF MINE WOULD BE LEAVING PRISON THEY GAVE ME ALL THIS.

HOW DID YOU BUY ALL THIS? DID YOU GET YOUR SALARY?

WE CAN'T RUIN THIS WELCOME BACK PARTY, IT WILL DISA-POINT BROTHER JOE!

THAT'S NO GOOD IF IT'S ON THE FLOOR,

IS THAT SO..? THAT BOSS IS A GREAT PERSON

YES, WE UNDER-STAND!

LET'S DO THIS IN HIGH SPIRITS!

DID THE GROCERY STORE GIVE YOU THIS TOO?

YOU'VE BEEN ON THE WAGON FOR SO LONG, BUT TONIGHT IT'S OKAY TO HAVE SOME

WHAT'S THAT?

OLD MAN... NO, COACH

THANK YOU... LET'S CELEBRATE THE GREAT DAYS THAT WILL COME

OPEN-ING CER-EMONY TOO...

NO, THAT'S A GIFT FROM ME. TODAY IS NOT ONLY JOE'S WELCOME BACK PARTY, BUT ALSO THE OPENING CERIMONY OF THE TANGE BOXING CLUB. HAVE A DRINK FOR THIS OCCASION

AND UNDER THE BRIDGE OF TEARS A LIVELY GATHERING WENT ON

THAT NIGHT, JOE YABUKI'S WELCOME BACK PARTY AND THE TANGE BOXING CLUB OPENING CEREMONY TOOK PLACE

THE KID'S WEREA ALSO HAPPIER THAN EVER

NISHI WAS ALSO HAPPY

DAMPEI WAS HAPPY

HE HAD NEVER FELT IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE THIS KIND OF RADIANT HAPPINESS

NEVER FELT SO LOVED

IN HIS LIFE HE HAD NEVER FELT SO MISSED BY PEOPLE

HOWEVER, THE ONE WHO WAS FEELING THE DEEPEST AND STRONGEST HAPPINESS WAS JOE YABUKI

THE PEOPLE THAT HEARD THE RUMORS THAT THERE WOULD BE FOOD AND DRINKS AND GATHERED

祝!!
クラブ

HE JUST STARED AT THE PEOPLE DANCING, SINGING, LAUGHING AS IF HE WAS IN A DREAM...

JOE HAD NEVER FELT SUCH EXCITEMENT, HAPPINESS AND GRATITUDE. HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO ACT IN SUCH SITUATION

LATE AT NIGHT

HE WAS CRYING

JOE WAS LYING IN HIS BED

THE KIDS AND ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE HAD ALREADY GONE HOME.

BY HIS SIDE, DAMPEI AND NISHI SLEPT.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE HE FELT LOVED BY OTHER PEOPLE. THAT WAS THE REASON FOR HIS TEARS.

WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?

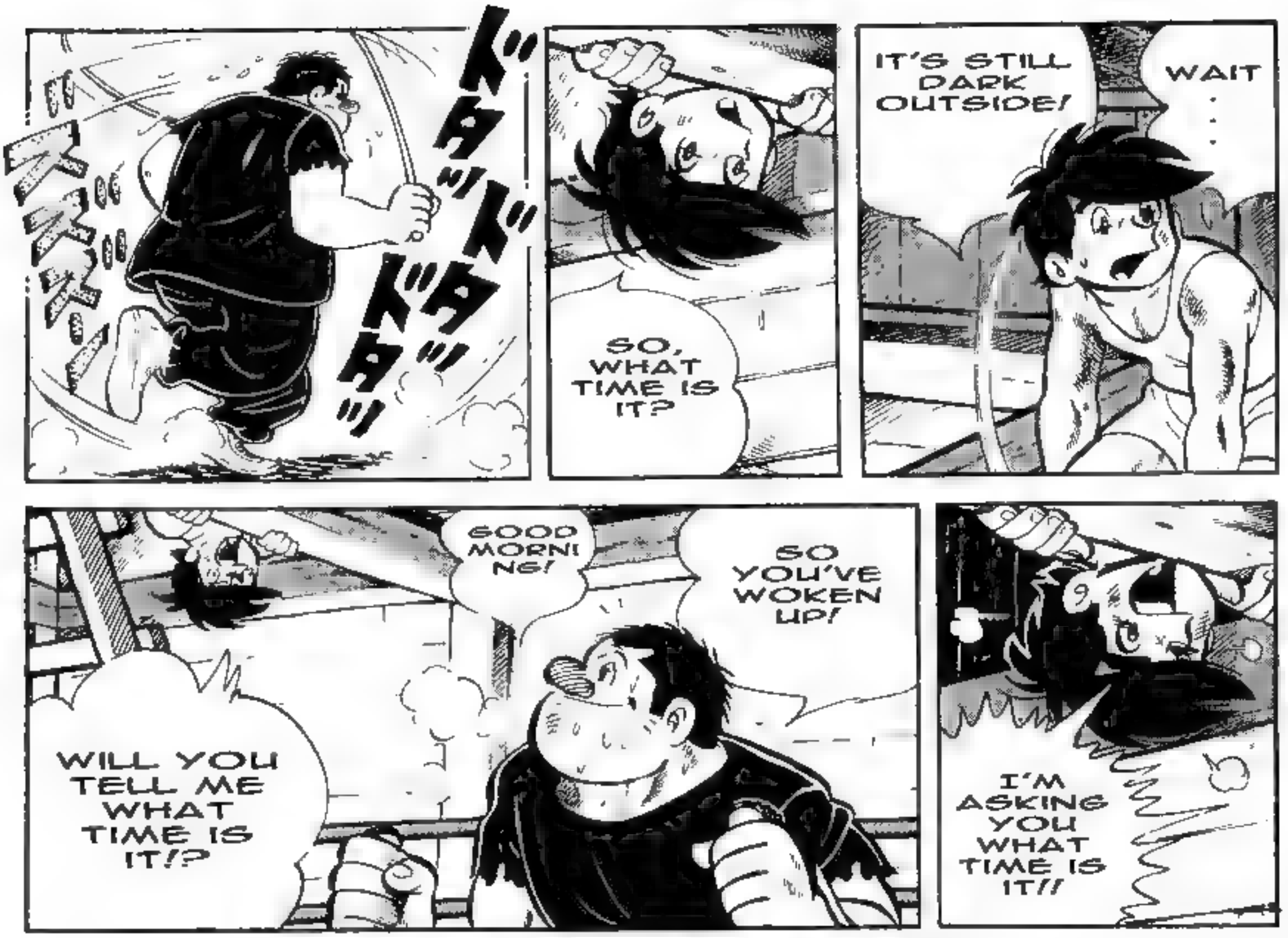
WHAT' S THIS NOISE ?

WH..

ドカーン

NISHI

ドドド


ドダダダダ
SO, WHAT TIME IS IT?
IT'S STILL DARK OUTSIDE!
WAIT . . .
GOOD MORNING!
SO YOU'VE WOKEN UP!
WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT TIME IS IT!?
I'M ASKING YOU WHAT TIME IS IT!!
HOW CAN SOMEONE HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY SO EARLY IN THE MORNING!
OH!
FOUR IN THE MORNING,
WHAT!?
AROUND FOUR THIRTY
WELL... IT SHOULD BE...
UGH,
ドダダダダ
CAN'T YOU STOP MAKING SO MUCH NOISE! I'M STILL SLEEPING!

NISHI, THAT IDIOT!

HEH! NOW IT'S TOO LATE!

GO BACK TO SLEEP

SORRY, I'LL TRY TO KEEP QUIET.

HEY NISHI! WHERE IS THE OLD MAN?

AH.....

HE'S OUTSIDE, HE BOUGHT AN OLD BICYCLE TO HELP US TRAIN. HE'S FIXING IT RIGHT NOW.

AH!

EH!

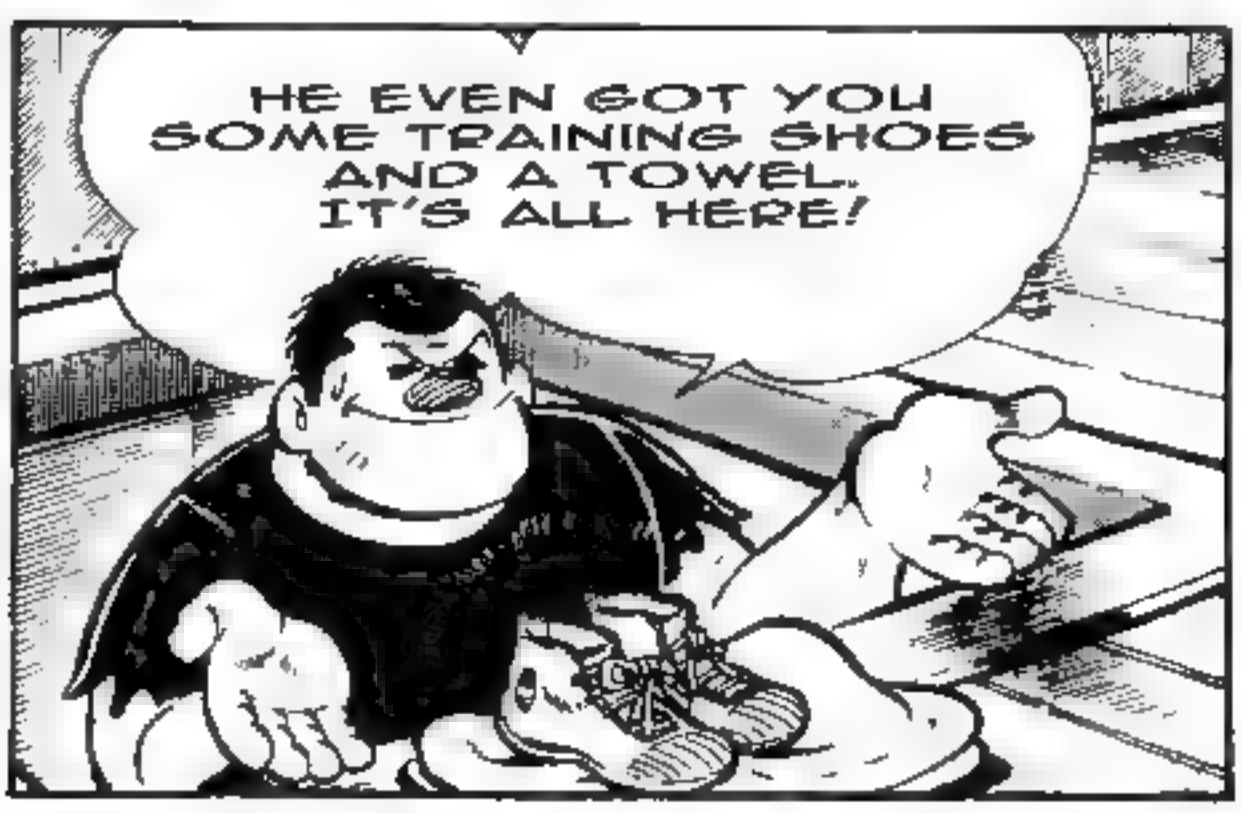
OH!

EVEN IF I TRY NOT TO MAKE NOISE, MY BODY IS TOO HEAVY!
SORRY JOE
. . .
ドドドドド
ドドドドド
ドドドドド

YOU CAN SLEEP AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
YOU'RE GETTING UP ALREADY?

NOW THAT I'VE AWAKE, I SHOULD BE...
WELL...

NOT THOSE CLOTHES! THE OLD MAN GOT THIS FOR YOU! TRAINING CLOTES!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? YOU WERE MAKING ALL THAT NOISE!


HE EVEN GOT YOU SOME TRAINING SHOES AND A TOWEL. IT'S ALL HERE!

WHEN YOU'VE GOTTEN CHANGED COME DOWN AND WASH YOUR FACE.
EH!

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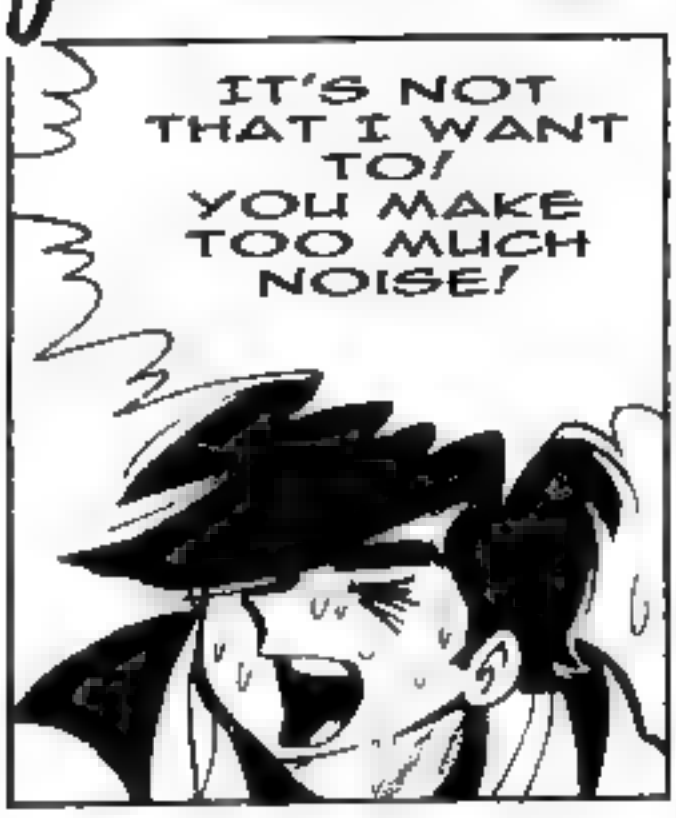

IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO! YOU MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE!

JOE! SO YOU'RE AWAKE SO EARLY!

DOES HE WAKE UP THIS EARLY EVERYDAY?
THAT NISHI . . .

IT FITS YOU WELL.
THANKS FOR THE CLOTES AND EVERY-THING.
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ

THIS IS TRAIN-ING TO TRY TO ENTER THE HARSH WORLD OF PRO BOXING.

FROM NOW ON HE IS NOT TRAINING FOR SOME STUPID PRISON TOURNA-MENT.

YOU TOO WILL NEED TO HAVE THIS KIND OF GOAL

I'VE FIXED THE BICYCLE

WE CAN HAVE THIS TALK LATER, NOW LETS GO OUT AND DO SOME ROADWORK

YES!

NISHI! YOU COME TOO!

LET'S GO JOE!

LETS RUN 'TILL TAMA-HIME PARK!

HAH!

KEEP YOUR CHIN UP!

DON'T FALL BEHIND NISHI!

ガッチャン

ガッチャン

WHY CAN'T WE RUN IN THE BIG STREETS? IT'S STILL EARLY. THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY CARS.

WHY ARE WE RUNNING IN THESE LITTLE ALLEYS?

ドドド

JUST KEEP RUNNING.
DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH TO SPEAK NONSENSE.
EEHH!
NOW! TEN LAPS AROUND THE PARK! FASTER! FASTER!
THIS PLACE BRINGS BACK SOME MEMO-RIES.
TAMA-HIME PARK . . .
UH!
AH!
THE DAY I FIRST CAME TO THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, I CAME TO THIS PARK.

THE FIRST TIME I MET TAROU, SACHI, KINOKO, CHUUKICHI AND THE OTHERS WAS AT THIS PARK

THE FIRST TIME I MET THE CRAZY OLD MAN WAS AT THAT SQUARE...

OH . . .

THE 10 LAPS ARE OVER! LETS HEAD BACK TO THE GYM

HEY! STOP RUNNING AROUND!

HAH...

HUH...

HAH...

HUH...

HAH...

HAH...

WHAT!? IT'S NOT OVER YET?

NOW, ISN'T IT A LITTLE EARLY TO BE EXHAUSTED? LETS GO INSIDE AND BUILD UP A SWEAT

HAH! HAH! HAH! HUH! HAH! HUH!

HAH... HAH...

ARE YOU JOKING? MY LEGS CAN'T MOVE AND MY STOMACH IS EMPTY!

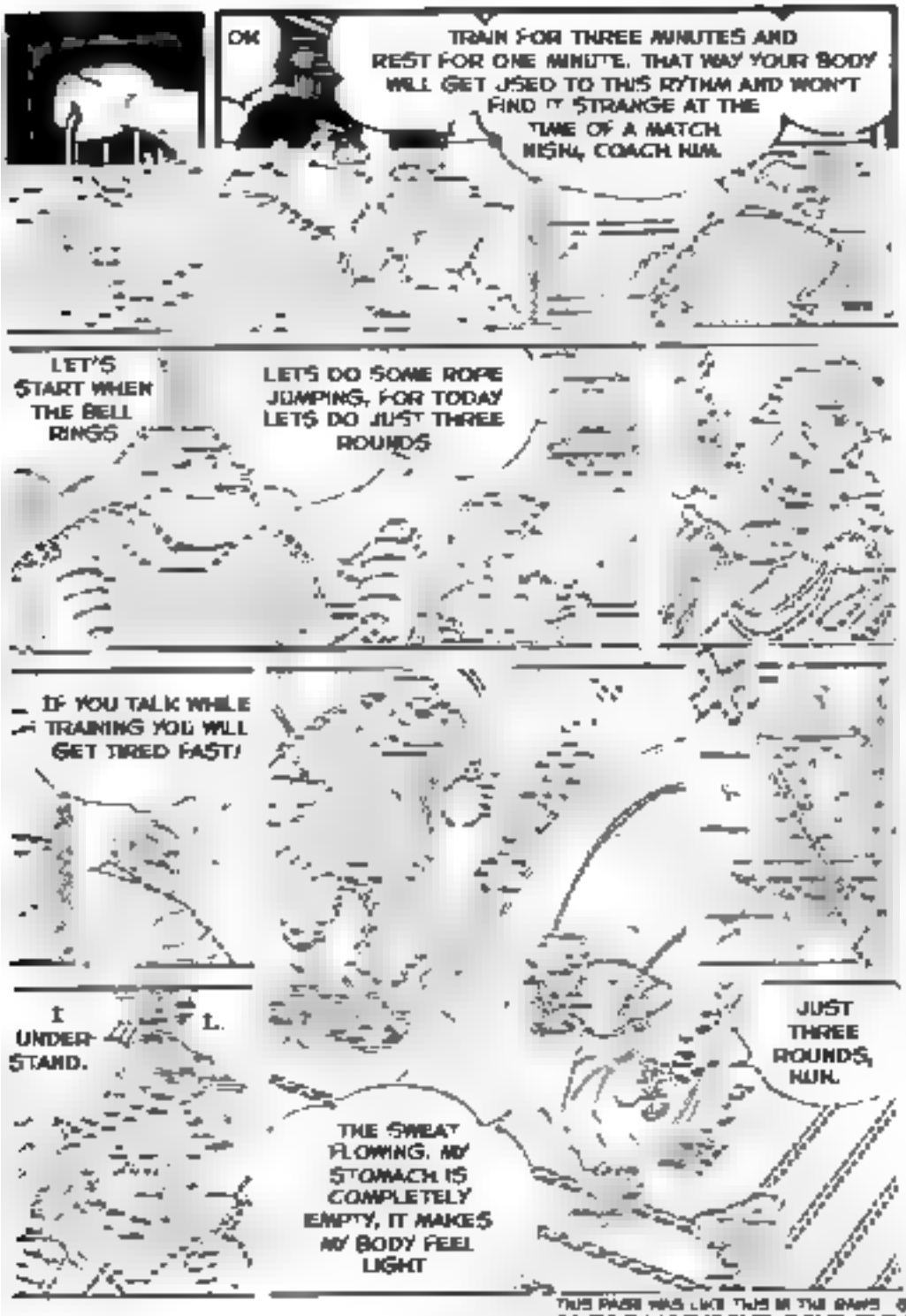
I... I UNDER-STAND

INSTEAD OF SHOUTING YOU SHOULD TRY YOUR BEST

THIS MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT. NOW YOU AREN'T TRAINING FOR SOME STUPID PRISON TOURNAMENT. THIS IS THE PRO BOXING WORLD

ALL YOUR TRAINING SHALL BE CONTROLED BY THIS BELL

THIS CLOCK WILL RING A BELL AFTER 3 MINUTES, THEN YOU'LL HAVE ONE MINUTE OF REST. THEN THE BELL WILL RING AGAIN AND YOU SHOULD RESUME TRAINING. THIS WILL GET YOU USED TO THE FORMAT OF A MATCH


OK
TRAIN FOR THREE MINUTES AND REST FOR ONE MINUTE. THAT WAY YOUR BODY WILL GET USED TO THIS RYTHM AND WON'T FIND IT STRANGE AT THE TIME OF A MATCH. NISHI, COACH HIM.
LET'S START WHEN THE BELL RINGS
LETS DO SOME ROPE JUMPING, FOR TODAY LETS DO JUST THREE ROUNDS
IF YOU TALK WHILE TRAINING YOU WILL GET TIRED FAST!
I UNDER-STAND.
L.
JUST THREE ROUNDS, HUH.
THE SWEAT FLOWING. MY STOMACH IS COMPLETELY EMPTY, IT MAKES MY BODY FEEL LIGHT

THIS PAGE WAS LIKE THIS IN THE RAWS GOT. IF SOMEONE HAS THIS PAGE, PLEASE SEND IT TO ME.

ONE!
TWO!
ONE!
TWO!

TWO!
TWO!
THREE!
FOUR!

HAH!
HUH!

HAH
!
HUH
!

UGH
!
UGH
!

HEH
!
OKAY
!

HEH
!
OKAY
!

ONE...

TWO...

THREE
!
FOUR!

ONE!
TWO!

NOW DO
SOME
SIT-UPS

NOW WE'LL
STRETCH
THE
UPPER
BODY

ONE
!
TWO
!

ONE
!
TWO
!

IF YOU DO
THAT YOU'LL
STRENGTHEN
YOUR ABDOMI-
NAL MUSCLES!

HEY! HEY!
DON'T BEND YOUR
KNEES WHILE YOU
RAISE YOUR
TORSO

K" K"
ス ス
" "

ONE!
TWO!

HEY!
HO!
HEY!
HO!

NOW LETS
STRECH
OUR LEGS

HEY!
HO!
HEY!
HO!

HEY, DON'T
USE FORCE
IN YOUR
HIPS!

THIS TRAINING
IS MEANT TO
SOFTEN YOUR
MUSCLES

THIS
HURTS
.
.
.

OUCH!

OW!
THIS
HURTS!

HOH... THAT'S PROMIS-ING

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THIS IS NOTHING I WON'T SOON GET USED TO

HUHUHU... GUESS YOU ARE PRETTY BEAT UP TODAY

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WORK-ING ON THE SAME STORE AS NISHI?

SO, JOE, WHAT ABOUT WORK?

I REFUSE. WORKING AS A HELPER IN A GRO-CERY STORE DOESN'T FIT ME

THE BOSS THERE HAS A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF BOXING. IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN ASK TO WORK THERE

THE GROCERY STORE...

SAME AS NISHI...

AT LEAST THAT WAS PRETTY PROFIT-ABLE

MAYBE I CAN SELL ILLEGAL GOODS AGAIN

EH... I HAVE NOTHING SPECIAL IN MIND...

ARE YOU THINKING OF DOING SOME-THING ELSE?

AH...

WH...

WHAT I SAID ABOUT CROSSING THIS BRIDGE WITH A STRICT DEVOTION, OVER TEARS AND SWEAT, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

EH...

JOE . . .

HAVEN YOU FORGOTTEN YESTERDAY'S TALK?

SO, JOE, WHY DON'T YOU TRY WORKING AT THE GROCERY STORE ONCE? IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT THEN YOU CAN LOOK FOR SOMETHIHG ELSE

YOU BASTARD! ARE YOUR ROTTEN GUTS MAKING YOU GO DOWN THE EASY PATH IN LIFE?

HEY, OLD MAN, DON'T GET SO ANGRY!

SEND MY THANKS TO THE OWNER OF HAYASHIYA, JOE, GIVE IT YOUR ALL TODAY AT WORK

I'LL BE GETTING ON THE TRAIN HERE, NISHI I ASK YOU TO TAKE CARE OF JOE

YOU TREAT ME LIKE A KID

SH..

I UNDERSTAND, GOOD LUCK TO YOU OLD MAN

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS COMMISSIONER 'S LICENSE?

HE IS TRYING TO GET AN OFFICIAL LICENSE FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TANGE BOXING CLUB

TO THE JAPAN BOXING ASSOCIATION OFFICE..

SO, WHERE IS THE OLD MAN GOING?

HEY... HEY!

I'LL LEAVE THE EXPLANATION FOR LATER, WE NEED TO RUN TO THE STORE

TO THE JAPAN BOXING ASSOCIATION OFFICE

林食料品店

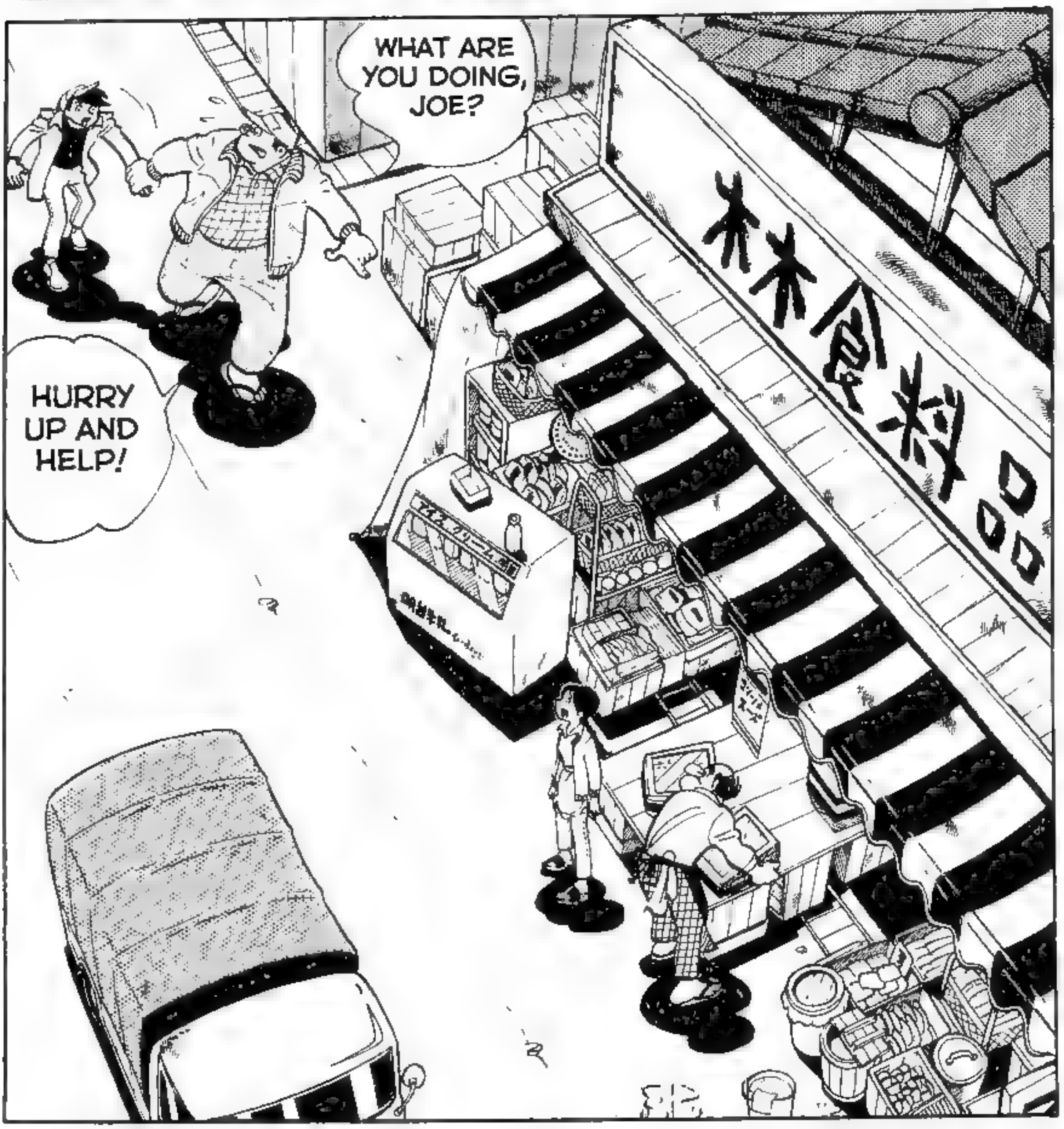
LET GO OF ME, NISHI!

OH! THAT'S BAD! THE BOSS IS OPENING THE STORE ALREADY

LET GO!

AH...

YOUKO!
YO...


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JOE?
HURRY UP AND HELP!

GOOD MORNING. I WAS CARELESS AND LEFT A LITTLE LATE

GOOD MORNING NISHI-SAN

ISN'T IT NISHI? WHERE WERE YOU?

YOU'RE YABUKI

OH, YES

THIS IS THE MAN I TALKED TO YOU ABOUT, YABUKI. IF YOU WOULD ALLOW, HE WOULD LIKE TO START WORKING HERE

I'M JUST BACK FROM RESTOCKING, NOW I'M GOING TO OPEN THE STORE

WHO'S HIM ?

NORIKO

THEY ARE HAYASHIYA'S OWNER AND HIS DAUGHTER NORIKO

SO, JOE, AREN'T YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF?

I SHOULD INTRODUCE HIM

YOU'VE MISTAKEN NORIKO-SAN FOR YOUKO-SAN! HAHAHA! SO THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT

HAHAHA! WHAT DID YOU SAY!

SHE ISN'T YOUKO?

WHAT ?

WHY DON'T YOU STOP LAUGHING LIKE AN IDIOT

はっはっはっ

HE MISTOOK NORIKO-SAN FOR SOMEONE ELSE THAT LOOKS LIKE HER, SO HE WAS ALL SURPRISED

WHAT HAPPENED NISHI-KUN ?

I'LL LOAD THIS INTO THE CAR

SO I'LL START HELPING WITH THE WORK NOW.

HEY, HEY!

NICE TO MEET YOU!

I'M JOE YABUKI

KUH KUH KUH

WE'RE UNLOADING THE TRUCK!

HEY, YOU'RE DOING THE OPPOSITE!

日食米穀店

IN THE MORNING THE STORE WAS BUSY. THE HAYASHIYA WAS SMALL BUT IT WAS THRIVING. SOMETIMES IT LOOKED LIKE A BATTLEFIELD

WELCOME!

HERE! TWO SLICES OF SALMON

CHOSE THICK ONES IF POSSIBLE

ONE... TWO... THREE...

THANK YOU FOR WAITING, THE TOTAL IS 40 YEN

HURRY, PLEASE! MY WIFE AND KID ARE HUNGRY AND WAITING FOR ME AT HOME

AND HURRY UP! I'M IN A HURRY!

SO DON'T JUST STAND THERE, GIVE ME THREE PIECES OF SHIRATAKI NOODLES

YEAH, I GUESS

UH?

HEY BOY! ARE YOU AN EMPLOYEE HERE?

COULD YOU GET ME ASARI PRE-SERVES?

RED PICKLED GINGER FOR ME

HEY, GET ME TWO POR-TIONS OF NATTO

IT'S THE ONE IN THIS BUCKET!

WHICH ONE WAS THAT?

SHI-RATA-KI...

HERE!

...?

OH SO IT'S THE ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE KONYAKU UDON

"ザ"

THIS ONE IS SHI-RATAKI...

EH!

ONE PIECE OF MISO PRE-SERVE

WRAPPING, WRAPPING . . .

WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG? HURRY!

WHAT'S THIS! TAKE THIS BACK AND WRAP IT! SOME PEOPLE CAN'T DO THEIR WORK RIGHT!

HERE I HAVE TWO FISTS FOR YOU!

AAAH!!

YOU ALL KEEP SHOUTING AT THE SAME TIME! STOP IT!

AHH!

AHH!

SHI-
RATA-
KI
...

SO, SHI-
RATAKI,
IS IT?

CALM DOWN! YOU
CAN'T TALK LIKE
THAT WITH CUS-
TOMERS!

OKAY...
NOW...
YOU...

GO INSIDE AND
HELP MOTHER
MAKE THE
PACKAGES...

TWO
ABURAAGE,
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
PATRON-
AGE!

TWO FOR
YOU,
RIGHT?

HERE'S YOUR
SHIRATAKI,
SORRY FOR THE
WAIT

KUH,
KUH,
KUH,

IS MY LUNCH BOX READY ?

MOM, I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL

NOW HURRY UP AND EAT

YES, IT'S IN YOUR SUIT-CASE

OUR STORE DOESN'T SELL FUTON PADDING, YOU KNOW

SMALL, CUT THEM SMALL

OH, OH, OH... YOU'VE MADE SUCH A BIG BAG AGAIN...

AH . . .

YOU SHOULDN'T PUT THE GLUE LIKE THAT? IT COMES OFF REALY EASY, THE BAG WILL RIP. YOU ARE CLUMSY AREN'T YOU

THIS MISOSHIRU LOOKS GREAT, ITADAKIMASU*

FUH, I'M TIRED ...

*WELL, IF YOU'VE READ ENOUGH MANGA YOU KNOW THAT BEFORE EACH MEAL

YABUKI-SAN, HAVE YOU HAD BREAKFAST?

AH!

KUH, KUH,

HEY!
OKAY...
HEY! YOU...
SO WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOME?
YES I HAVE, BUT IT WAS SO EARLY THAT I'M HUNGRY ALREADY
DEAR!
JOE !
TODAY WAS AWFULLY BUSY, RIGHT
I GIVE UP, I GIVE UP, AT LEAST HE'S CALMED DOWN
ハハハハ
ハハハハ
モリモリ
THE WILL BE A TIME WHEN YOU HAVE TO DO WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO DRINK WATER!
NOW, YOU CAN HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT
HAHAHAHA! THE YOUNG ONES NOWADAYS HAVE SUCH NERVE AND NO SHAME!

SHOW ME YOUR ARM

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS POWER

SO, I HEARD THAT YOU MANAGED TO GET A DRAW AGAINST THE PROMINENT 6-ROUNDER RIKIISHI

YOUR CHIN LOOKS A LITTLE WEAK THOUGH, DO YOU KNOW THAT IT'S CALLED THE JAW?* IT WOULDN'T BE NICE TO BE KNOWN AS BE KNOWN GLASS JAW, HUH

IT'S SLENDER BUT LOOKS GREAT. YOUR WRIST IS A LITTLE TENSE... OKAY...

I'M VERY SORRY, I'LL HELP YOU MYSELF

DAD, YABUKI-SAN IS EATING RIGHT NOW

IS THAT OKAY?

THANK YOU

YOU'VE GOT SOME MUSCLE, NICE ABS. YOU HAVE TO MAKE THEM HARDER THOUGH

YOU CAN EAT WHILE I DO THAT

NOW SHOW ME YOUR STOMACH!

*IN JAPANESE, JAW AND JOE ARE WRITTEN WITH THE SAME KATAKANA, ジョー, SO THE MANAGER MAKES A PUN WITH THE WORDS. GLASS JAW - GLASS JOE

I'M OFF TO SCHOOL!
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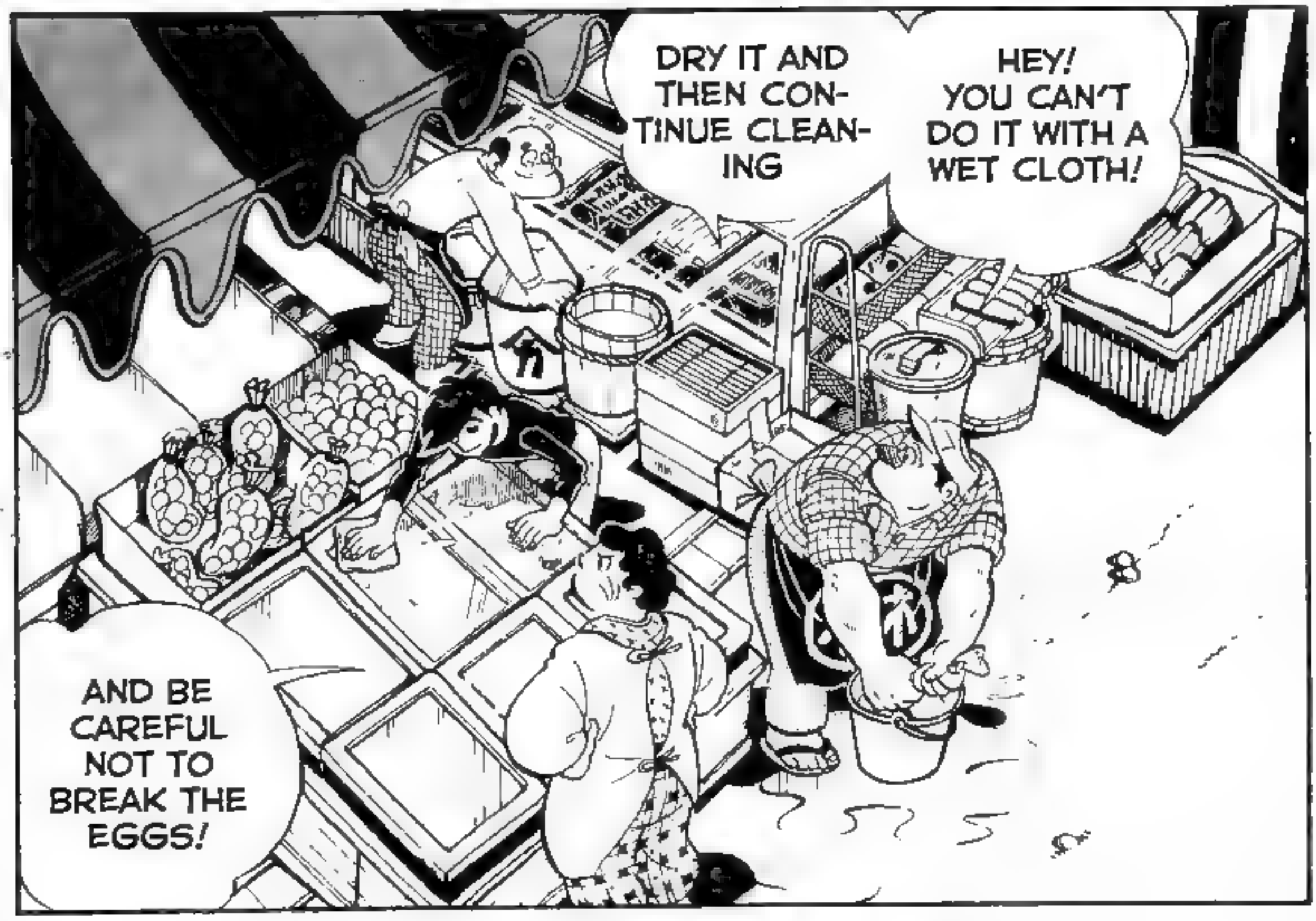
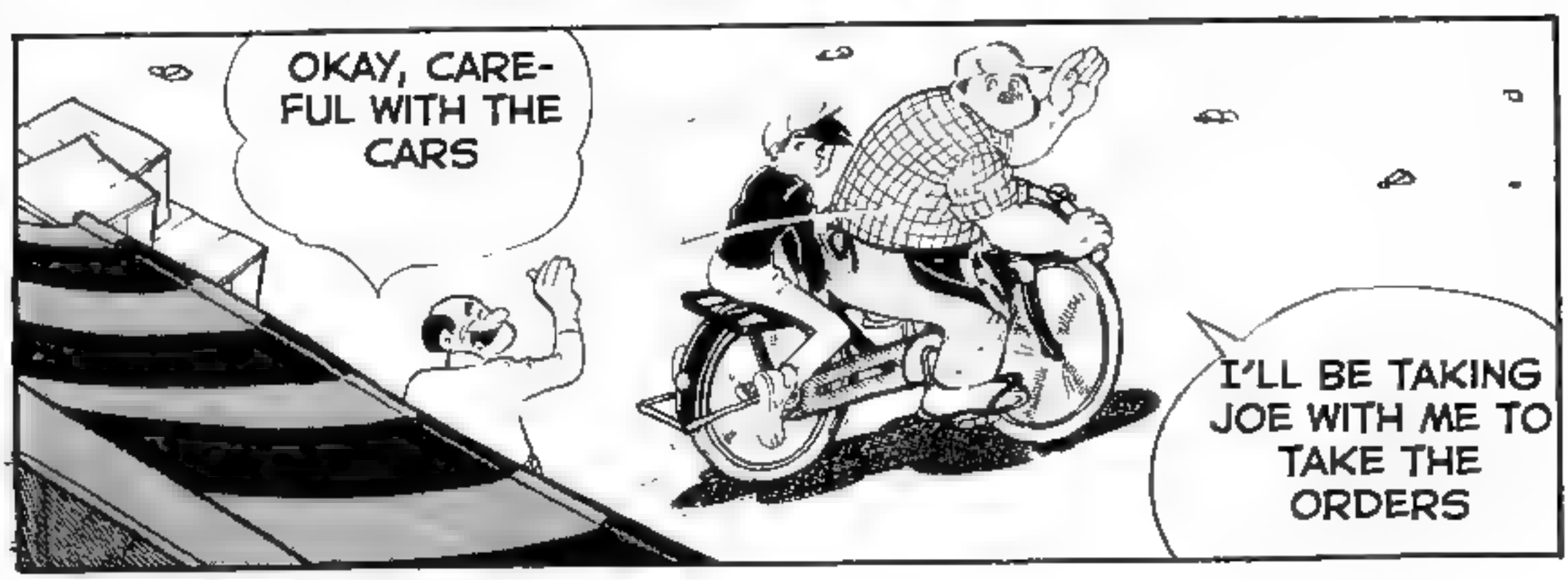

DRY IT AND THEN CONTINUE CLEANING
HEY! YOU CAN'T DO IT WITH A WET CLOTH!
AND BE CAREFUL NOT TO BREAK THE EGGS!


OKAY, CAREFUL WITH THE CARS
I'LL BE TAKING JOE WITH ME TO TAKE THE ORDERS

IN THAT HOUSE LIVES A BIG FAMILY AND THEY ALWAYS ORDER WITH US. REMEMBER IT, JOE

AH . . .

A DOZEN INSTANT RAMEN, THREE PACKS OF SEA-WEED AND ... A DOZEN EGGS,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PA-TRON-AGE

YOUR ORDER WILL BE SOON DE-LIVERED

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PA-TRONAGE

THAT FACTORY'S WORKERS ALWAYS ORDER THEIR FOOD FROM US. THEY ARE A VERY IMPORTANT REGULAR CUSTOMER, WE MUST BE CAREFUL

UH !

JOE AND NISHI'S WORK WAS OVER

DURING THE AFTER-NOON, ONCE AGAIN THE STORE BECAME BUSY AS A BATTLE-FIELD

TWO PIECES OF CHIKUWA,

THANK YOU

HERE'S YOUR TAMA UDON, SORRY FOR THE WAIT

THE DRIED HORSE MACKEREL IS SOLD OUT. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME DRIED SARDINES INSTEAD?

THIS CHAPTER INVOLVES A LOT OF JAPANESE FOOD NAMES, I TRANSLATED WHAT I COULD, CHECK THE INTERNET TO SEE WHAT THEY ARE EXACTLY

WHAT ?

SO, DID YOU LIKE YOUR FIRST DAY OF WORK?

JUST WAIT AND YOU'LL GET USED TO IT. SHE MAY SEEM NOISY ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT DEEP DOWN SHE IS A VERY GOOD PERSON

THAT OWNER'S WIFE IS SO ANNOYING WHEN SHE STARTS YELLING

HU HU HU

THE OWNER, NORIKO-SAN... THEY ARE ALL GOOD PEOPLE

YOU HAVE CHANGED A LOT. WHO COULD IMAGINE THAT JUST ONE YEAR AGO YOU WERE A PRISON BOSS WHO COULD MAKE A KID CRY JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

HUH ?

ME ON THE OTHER HAND... AS YOU COULD SEE IN THE GROCERY STORE, I HAVEN'T BECOME A FINE YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU

DON'T MAKE FUN OF IT

ON TOP OF THAT YOU'VE DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN BUSINESS. YOUR STAY IN PRISON REALLY HAD AN EFFECT ON YOU

THE THING THAT MADMAN SAD ABOUT THE BRIDGE AND CROSSING IT OVER SWEAT AND TEARS... I MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO MAKE IT A REALITY...

NICE . . .

IN MY LIFE IT'S THE FIRST TIME, THER FIRST TIME I'VE EVER WORKED. IT FEELS...

IF THE OLD MAN HEARS THIS HE WILL BE OVER-JOYED!

COME ON

IS THAT SO?

IS...

EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SAY IT VERY WELL

LET'S HURRY BACK, MAYBE THE OLD MAN IS HOME ALREADY

YEAH

THE OLD MAN'S AND YOUR EXPECTATIONS, I'LL EXCEED THEM! THERE'S STILL THE EVENING TRAINING LEFT TO DO

THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE OFFICIAL LICENSE IS STILL GOING ON

YES

WHAT'S WITH THE OLD MAN?

HE'S GOING TO THE BOXING ASSOCIATION FOR HIS DAILY VISIT?

THE STORY IS LIKE THIS,

WELL,

THERE'S A TEST TO BECOME A PRO?

EVEN THOUGH WE ARE TRAINING VERY HARD TO BECOME GOOD BOXERS, IF THE JAPAN BOXING ASSOCIATION DOESN'T GRANT A LICENSE TO THIS TANGE BOXING CLUB, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN MATCHES CAUSE WE CAN'T TAKE THE PRO BOXING TEST

O H !

WHEN THE OLD MAN GETS THE LICENSE AND WE'RE ABLE TO PASS THE TEST, THE TANGE BOXING CLUB WILL ENTER THE WORLD OF JAPANESE PRO BOXING. UNTIL THEN WE'RE JUST ANOTHER MAKE-BELIEVE BOXING CLUB

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. IMAGINE IF SOMEONE WITH NO SKILLS WENT IN THE BOXING RING. HE WOULD BE KILLED

HAD A GYM, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SMALL

SOME TIME AGO, THE OLD MAN,

HE TRAINED MANY BOXERS BEFORE US

YEAH

BUT THE JUDGING COMISSION JUDGED HIM ON ACCOUNT OF VIOLENCE. HE WAS REMOVED FROM THE ASSOCIATION AND WAS FORCED TO CLOSE HIS GYM

THE ASSO-CIATION WILL LISTEN TO HIM

HE'S GOING THERE EV-ERYDAY LIKE A SAINT

BUT THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY. THE OLD MAN IS WORKING VERY HARD AND HAS EVEN STOPPED DRINKING

WHAT NISHI SAID, SOME BAD MEMO-RIES CAME TO HIS MIND

WHEN JOE HEARD

THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

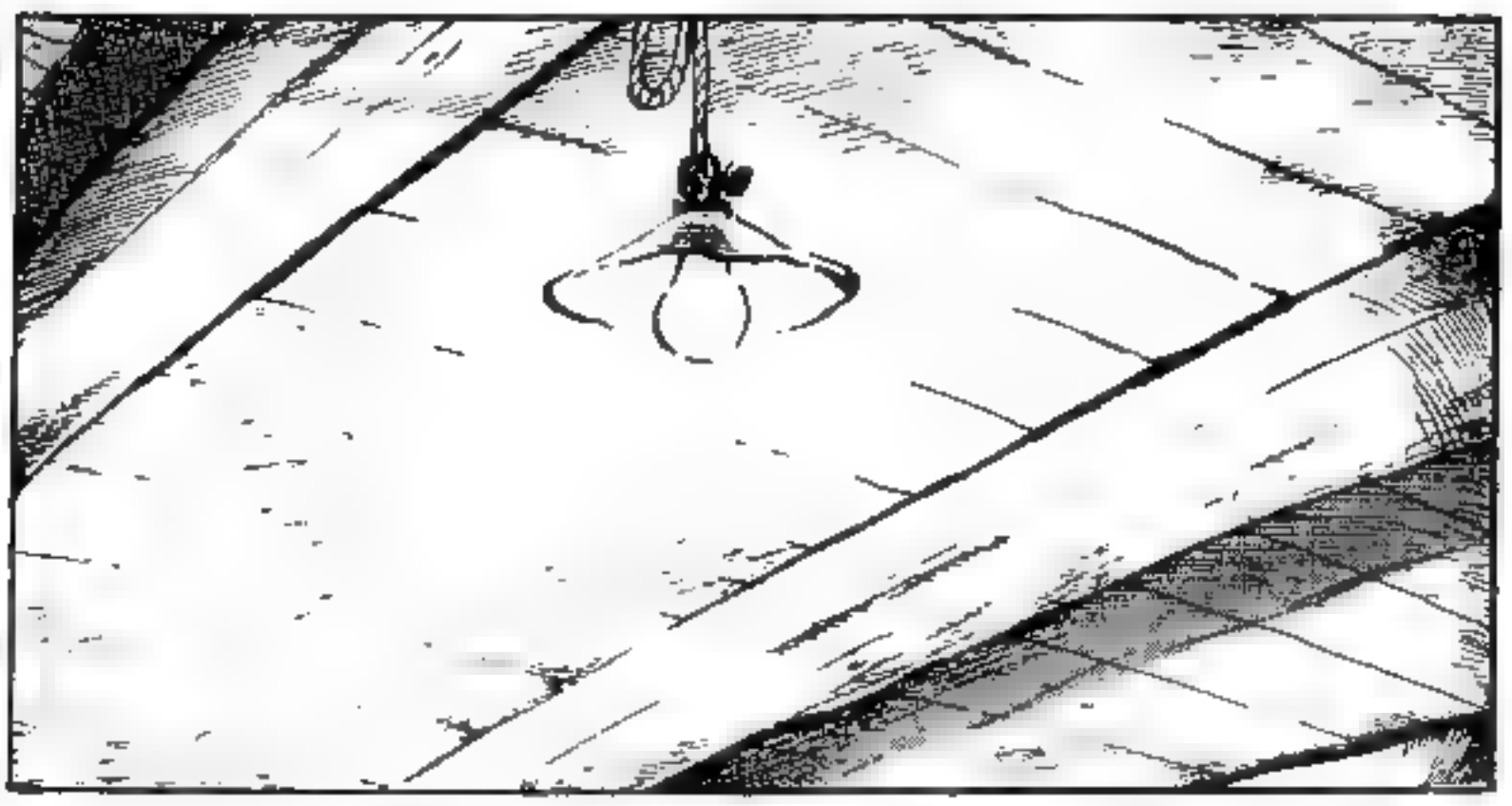
HUHUHU, IN THE PRO RING...? AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE BIT HASTY SAYING THAT JOE WILL STEP IN A PRO RING?...

DAMPEI, YOU LEFT A VERY BAD IMPRESSION IN THE PRO BOXING WORLD....

BUT A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN BANISHED FROM THE JAPANESE BOXING WORLD....

THAT RAINY DAY, WHEN JOE HAD HIS LAST FIGHT WITH RIKIISHI, HE SAID:

....



LET'S DO SOME MORE TRAINING
NO USE SITTING DOWN WAITING!
ガバ!!

THE OLD MAN IS LATE

HEY! OPEN UP!
IS IT THE OLD MAN?

ドンドン

POLICE ?!
ドヤドヤ
IS THIS DAMPEI TANGE'S RESIDENCE?

THE OLD MAN...

DRUNK...

THAT... THAT IDIOT!

YOU SHOULD COME WITH US TO THE PRECINT

WE GOT A CALL FROM HEADQUARTERS SAYING THAT DAMPEI TANGE GOT EXTREMELY DRUNK AND WAS CAUGHT IN THE ACT. HE WAS ARRESTED WITH CHARGES OF DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER AND VIOLENCE

GET IN

THIS WAY

……

……

ズルル

ズルル

ウィィ!!

OLD MAN...

HE HE HE

HIC!

ズズル

ズルル

THERE'S A CHAIR OVER THERE

YOU TWO, CLOSE THE DOOR AFTER YOU GET IN

にたにた…

ガチャリ

EH... EH...

HEHE HEHE HEHE

HE HE HE

OLD MAN... WHAT...

WHAT DID YOU DO?

LOOKING AT HIS RECORD, HE HAS BEEN ARRESTED MANY TIMES FOR INJURING PEOPLE

THIS MAN HAS BEEN DRINKING SINCE NOON, HE GOT IN SOME VERY VIOLENT FIGHTS AND BROKE A LOT OF PROPERTY AND HURT MANY PEOPLE

HE'S STILL PRETTY DRUNK

THE OLD MAN HAD STOPPED DRINKING...

W... WAIT...

LOOKS LIKE HE IS A RECURRING CRIMINAL

YOU ASK ABOUT THE BOXING GYM'S LICENSE? THAT DOESN'T MATTER!

HE HE !

SO, WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE LICENSE FOR THE BOXING GYM?

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER OLD MAN! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TODAY!?

THIS STINKS !

DOES N'T..

K"

STOP F***ING WITH ME!

YOU NOISY BRAT! STOP WHINING!

HEY YOU! STOP!

AH... AH...!

KUH . . .

LET'S CALL IT A DAY

IT'S NO USE TALKING TO HIM WHILE HE'S STILL DRUNK

YOU IDIOT! YOU ARE INSIDE THE PRECINT AND YOU STILL DO THIS?

YOU! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

YOU GUYS SHOULD GO HOME TOO. PLEASE COME BACK TOMORROW

PLEASE GO HOME

TAKE DAMPEI TANGE TO THE CELL

YES !

HEY, THIS WAY

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? COME WITH ME TO THE CELL

I'M NOT DRUNK! I'M NOT DRUNK!

W... WAIT!

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH

IT'S TRUE, I'M NOT DRUNK ANY-MORE. I'M NOT COMPLETELY RECOVERED, BUT I'VE COME BACK TO MY SENSES

LISTEN TO ME !

WAIT! JOE! NISHI! COME BACK!

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TALKING HIS WAY OUT, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH

HUH..

WHAT DO WE DO?

I BEG YOU... PLEASE LET ME TALK TO THOSE TWO. I MUST TELL THEM WHAT MADE ME GET DRUNK AND ACT SO VIOLENTLY

LET'S TRY IT AGAIN. GET IN THE ROOM

BRING THOSE TWO BACK

HOWEVER, IF YOU START WITH THAT BEHAVIOR AGAIN WE WILL STOP YOU AND TAKE YOU TO TO THE CELL

取調室

ガチャリ

JOE...

YES... I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE

JOE

NISHI

APOLO-
GISE
.
.
.

I
MUST

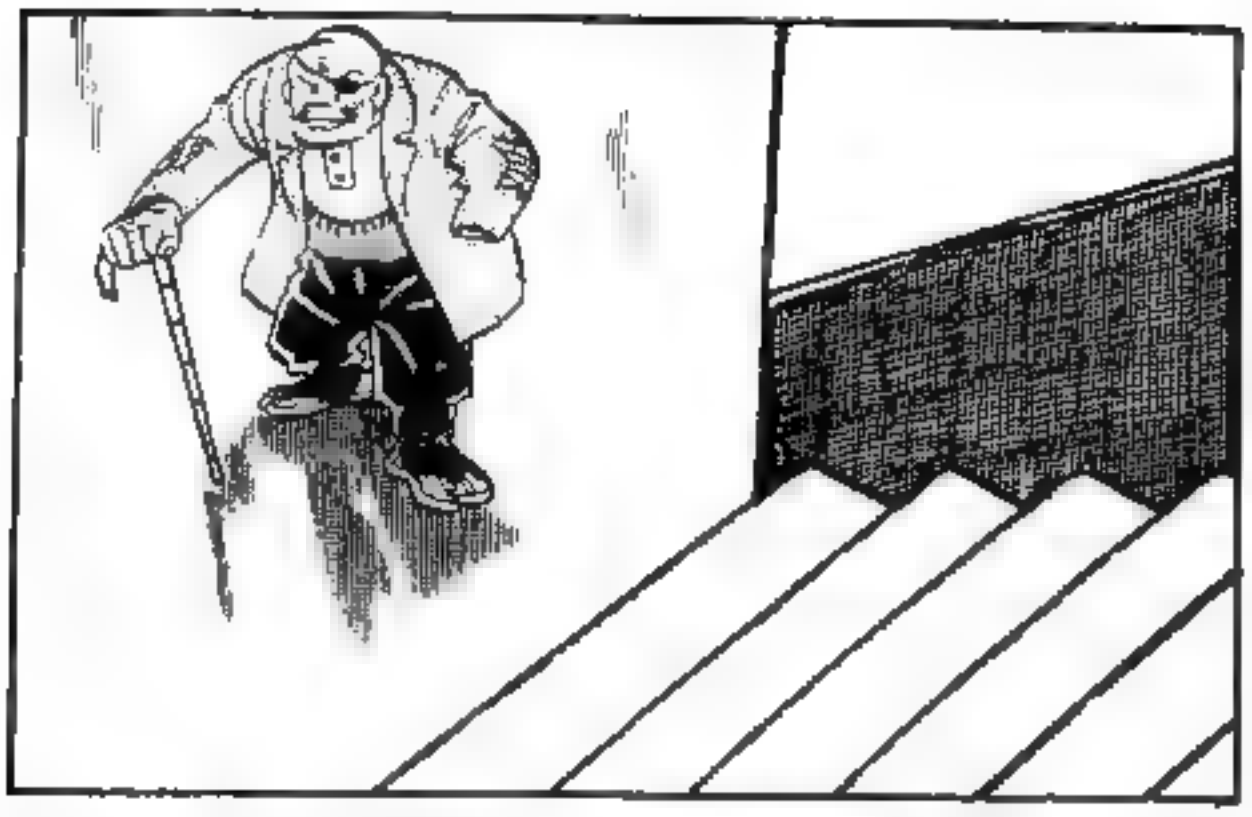
YOU...
YOU
TWO...

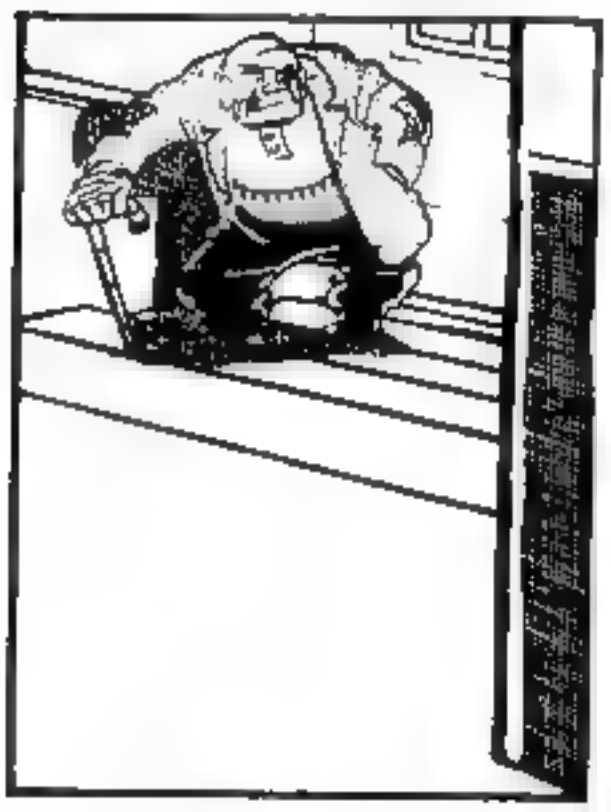
I WAS SO STUPID...
I WAS SO NAIVE...
I WAS LED AROUND FOR MY
STUPIDITY AND NAIVITY

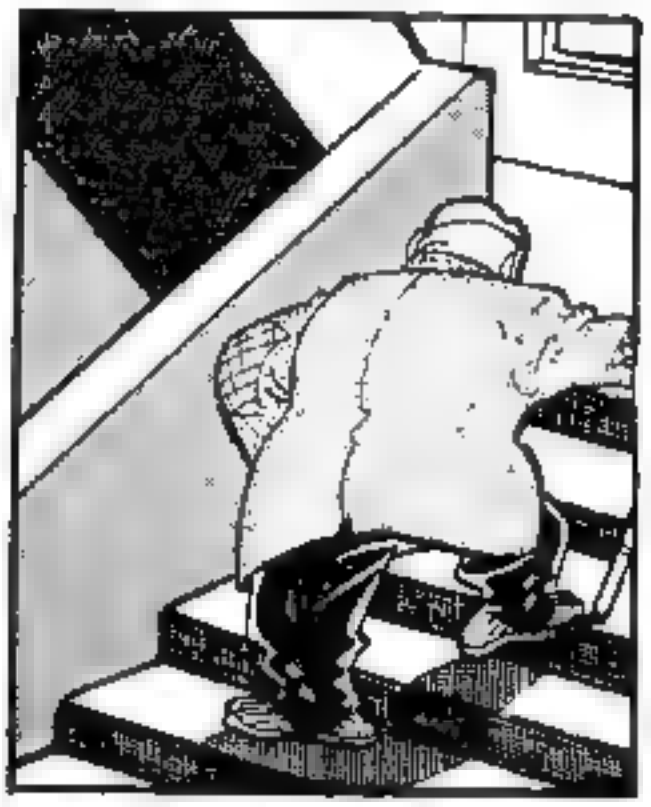
WALKING TO
THE BOXING
COMMISSIONER'S
OFFICE IN
HIGH SPIRITS

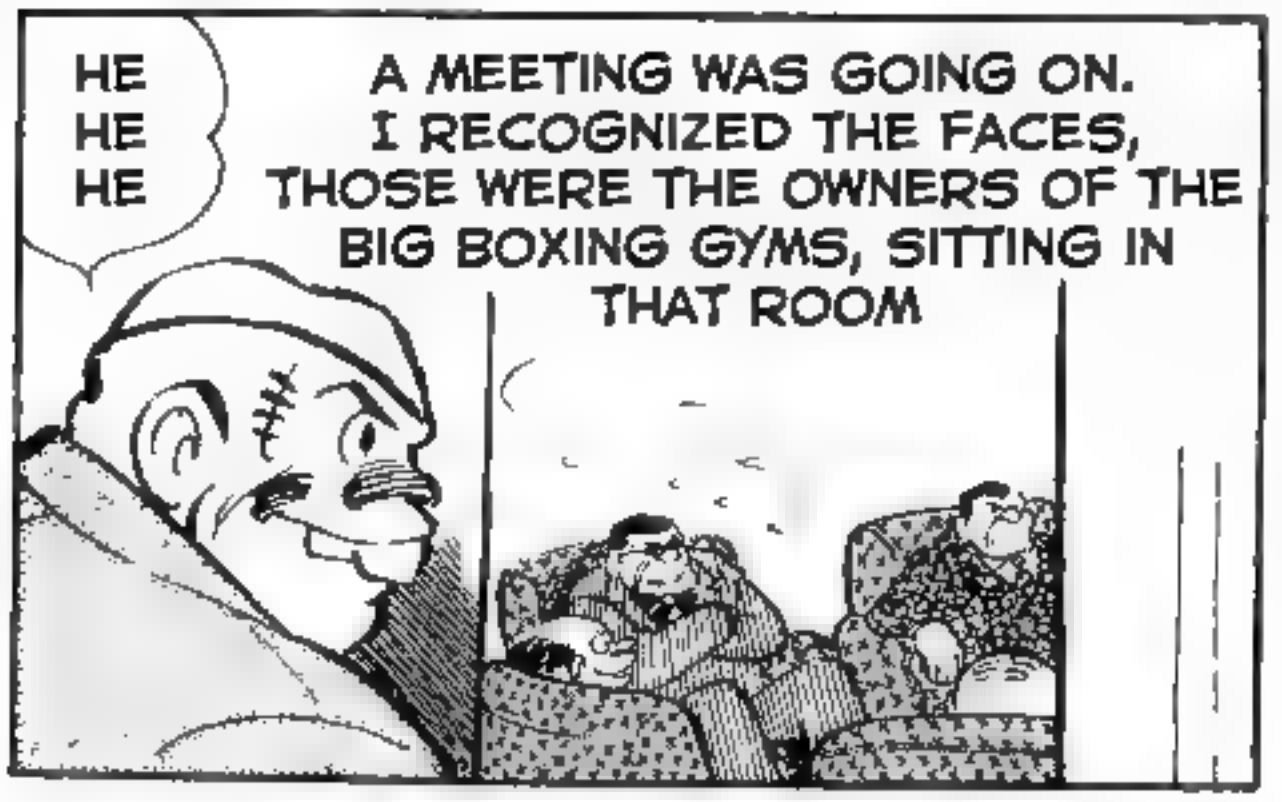
TODAY
I WAS

IN HIGH
SPIRITS...
IDIOT...









AS THEY ALWAYS PRETENDED TO BE OUT OR TOO BUSY TO MEET ME, SO TODAY I DECIDED TO WALK PAST THE RECEPTION AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE MEETING ROOM

EXCUSE ME... WAIT! SIR...

NOW WITH THE TELEVISION BOXING BOOM, THEY'VE ALL BECOME VERY PROMINENT

WE USED TO BE ON THE TOURING BOXING BUISINESS

HEHEHE! OF COURSE I'M ALIVE!

ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?

YOU . . .

FOR GOD'S SAKE !

TANGE !

I'VE FOUNG A YOUNG MAN, I'M SURE HE'LL BECOME SOMETHING. I'M BETTING ALL I HAVE ON HIM!

EEH? DID YOU MISS ME? HEHEHE!

LONG TIME NO SEE EVERYONE!

I'M TRYING TO MEET THE COMMISSIONER, THAT'S WHY I PAID A VISIT HAHAHAHA!

AND FOR THAT I CAME TO ASK THAT BOXING TRAINER LICENSE BE RENEWED

I WANT HIM TO TAKE THE PRO TEST TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS

YOU EVEN MADE TWO WORLD CHAMPIONS, DIDN'T YOU?

HEY! YOUR GYM IS IN A PRETTY GOOD CONDITION ISN'T IT?

I'M ASKING ON BEHALF OF OUR OLD FRIENDSHIP

A REUNION AFTER SO MUCH TIME, YOU PEOPLE LOOK LIKE YOU'RE AT A WAKE

WHAT'S GOING ON...?

THE HEAD?

HITTING WHILE BEING HIT WAS WHAT HAPPENED MOST OF THE TIME. AFTER RETIRING THE FIGHTER'S HEAD FEELS THE DAMAGE

TANGE, THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE ACTIVE WAS THE FIGHTERS' AGE, I REMEMBER THE FIGHTS,

WHEN A FIGHTER, BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE SUFFERED, CAN'T THINK PROPERLY, JUST LIKE IF HE'S DRUNK

THAT IS... A PUNCH DRUNK...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHY ARE YOU TREATING ME LIKE I'M MAD?

...

WE HOPE IT IS

WHAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY MY HEAD IS NOT WORKING?

WHY IS MY RETURN A BAD THING?! THIS DEFORMED FACE AND THIS SMASHED EYE ARE PROOF OF WHAT I DID FOR THE BOXING WORLD

WHAT !?

WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO SAY IS THAT YOU THINKING YOU CAN RETURN TO THE BOXING WORLD IS ENOUGH REASON TO DOUBT YOUR BRAIN'S CONDITION

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALREADY? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU USED TO HIT YOUR OWN FIGHTERS IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH?

ALL MY YOUTH... ALL MY LIFE.... I'M A MAN WHO HAS SPENT ALL HIS LIFE STANDING ON A BOXING RING WHY CAN'T I RETURN TO THIS WORLD?

DON'T FORGET IN-SULTING THE BOXERS AT THE ROPES

AND YOUR DRINKING... I REMEMBER THE SMELL OF SAKE THAT ALWAYS CAME OOZING OUT OF YOUR CORNER

WHEN I WAS THE TRAINER LICENSE OFFI-CER AND GAVE YOU A SIX-MONTH SUSPENSION YOU ATTACKED ME

THERE' S STILL MORE

NOW WHAT, TANGE ?

U... UGH...

ALL YOU EVER DID WAS SHOUT AROUND. WHEN THE JUDGES MADE A DECISION THAT DIDN'T FAVOR YOUR BOXER YOU WOULD GET ON TOP OF THE RING ALL DRUNK AND HIT HIM

IF AN OLD FART LIKE YOU COMES BACK YOU WILL BE NO MORE THAN A PROBLEM FOR US

TO THINK THAT AN IDIOT LIKE YOU WHO STILL LIVES IN THE PAST STILL EXISTS...

NOWADAYS THE BOXING WORLD HAS MERGED WITH THE TELEVISION WORLD. IT IS A MODERN BUSINESS LIKE ANY OTHER AND IT IS TRYING TO GROW AND DE-VELOP

YOU'RE A LUNA-TIC

YOU'RE A PROBLEM THE BOXING WORLD HAS BEEN ABLE TO FORGET

ANYHOW, YOUR RETURN IS SOMETHING WE WON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT

NOW THAT I FOUND A PROMISSING YOUNGSTER AND I'M BETTING EVERY-THING ON HIM.
I'M BETTING MY LIFE ON HIM!

I'M NOT THE SAME DAMPEI TANGE AS I WAS, PLEASE UNDERSTAND...

THE NEW ME...

ME...

EVEN IF HE HAS THE TALENT, AS LONG AS HE IS BY YOUR SIDE HE WILL NEVER BECOME A BOXER

WHAT AN UNLUCKY YOUNG MAN

ふ!

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I'LL SHOW THE COMMISSIONER MY GOOD FAITH AND GET MY LI-CENSE BACK!

SINCE YOU WON'T HEAR ME THEN LET ME TALK TO THE COMMISSIONER !!!!

……

COMMIS-
SIONER
.
.

I CAN'T OVERRULE THE DE-
CISION OF THE CHAIRMEN,
THOSE ARE THE RULES OF
THIS ORGANISATION, IT
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU
SAY

I'M THE
COMMIS-
SIONER

MR.
TANGE

I FOUND A GREAT TALENT!
HE'S A SUPER ROOKIE THAT MAY EVEN
BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE HISTORY OF
JAPANESE BOXING

PLEASE,
I BEG YOU

I...
BEG...
YOU...

WE BOTH ARE AIMING FOR
TOMORROW, JUST WAITING
FOR AN OPPORTUNITY.
PLEASE...

NOW, EVERYONE,
LETS HAVE THAT
MEETING ABOUT
THE WORLD TITLE

LET'S
GO TO
THE
MEET-
ING
ROOM

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.
I CAN'T OVERRULE THE
DECISION OF THE CHAIR-
MEN COUNCIL.

I WENT BACK TO THE OFFICE, WENT INTO THE MEETING ROOM AND STARTED A FIGHT

WHEN I NOTICED, I WAS IN FRONT OF A BAR HOLDING A BOTTLE OF CHEAP SAKE

INTO THE MEETING ROOM ...

IN OTHER WORDS, TOMORROW FOR US...

...WILL NEVER COME

AFTER ALL...

I'M SORRY

I'M REALLY SORRY...

ぎょっ

HA...
HA...

RIKIISHI'S PREDICTION WAS RIGHT

RIKII-SHI

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

STOP JOE...

UWAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA!

UHUHU HAHAHA HAHA...

UHUHU...

STOP IT JOE...

HAH! HAH! HAH!
HAH! HAH! HAH!
HAH! HAH! HAH!

ゴクリ

はっはっはっは

……

バサッ
バサッ

LETS GO BACK HOME OLD MAN

YOU ...

YOU SHOULD GO

WHAT ?

LETS HEAD BACK

HEY !

...WON'T DO ANYONE ANY GOOD

YOU PEOPLE BEING HERE RIGHT NOW...

YOU SHOULD QUICKLY JOIN ANOTHER GYM. THERE YOU CAN POLISH YOUR SKILLS AND DEVELOP AS A GREAT BOXER.

FOR SOMEONE OF YOUR TALENT TO BE RUINED BY STAYING BY MY SIDE... I CAN'T DO IT

IT HAS LOST IT'S FLAVOR

I THINK I'M DONE WITH BOXING

NOW THAT BOXING WON'T WORK OUT ANYMORE I GUESS IT IS GOODBYE FOR US. IT'S BEEN A PRETTY LONG TIME, OLD MAN...

JUST BOXING ISN'T ENOUGH FOR ONE'S LIFE

JOE . . .

JOE, YOU...

DRINKING, DANC-ING, LAUGHING, CRYING

AT EASE, HAVING FUN...

EVEN THOUGH TALKING ABOUT "TOMORROW" SOUNDS COOL, YOU CAN ALSO LIVE YOUR LIFE CAREFREE, ONE DAY AT A TIME

QUICK! GET UP!

COME ON! ARE YOU GOING TO SIT THERE ALL DAY?

YOU . . .

WE CAN ONLY LET HIM GO IF YOU FIND HIM A PERSONAL GUARANTOR

A CHARGE OF VIOLENCE COMMITED BY A BOXER IS EVEN WORSE THAN NORMAL.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YOU IDIOT?! DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT WE WOULD LET SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLENCE GO LIKE THAT?!

OF COURSE YOU CAN'T

HUH ?!

CAN'T I BE HIS PERSONAL GUARANTOR ?

HEY ...

EXCUSE ME...

LET GO !

HOW CAN WE LET A VIOLENT CRIMINAL IN THE HANDS OF A VAGABOND WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A REGULAR JOB

KUH !

WE ARE NO STRAY CATS !

AS YOU HAVE ALREADY TALKED TO HIM YOU SHOULD GO BACK HOME

BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU WERE THERE FOR ME IN THE JUVENILE PRISON, I'LL BRING SOMETHING FOR YOU

DON'T GIVE UP, OLD MAN. IN PRISON THEY TRY TO MAKE YOU REGRET WHAT YOU DID BY GIVING YOU SOME CRAPPY FOOD

CRIME BOSS...?

HEH HEH HEH . . .

MAYBE I'LL GO BACK TO THE STREETS, I MAY EVEN BECOME A CRIME BOSS...

...JOE...

RIGHT IN FRONT OF US...

THIS GUY...

WE SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF THE OLD MAN

WE'RE COMING BACK TO CHECK ON HIM TOMOR-ROW

JOE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THERE'S NO USE BEING HERE NOW

LETS GO BACK FOR TONIGHT. WE SHOULD CALM DOWN AND COME BACK TOMORROW

NOW... NOW...

EVERYONE IS ALL OVER ME TODAY.

HEY, LET GO OF ME!

COME ON, JOE

WE'RE GOING

SQUEAK!

IT'S NOON ALREADY

YOU REALLY SHOULD GET UP...

HE GAVE US THE DAY OFF

THE OWNER OF THE STORE ...

GET UP AND DO WHAT?

DON'T BE RECK-LESS

IF YOU'RE NOT WORKING THERE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO WORK? PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TO PRISON LIKE US HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING WORK

I'M NOT WORKING AT THAT PLACE ANYMORE

DAY OFF ?

LUNCH IS READY

NOW, LET'S GO DOWN-STAIRS

. . . .

I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING TO SUR-VIVE

BUT I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING

I DON'T WANT TO WORK AT ALL

. . . .

AFTER WE SHOULD GO VISIT THE OLD MAN

AND . . . .

ギシ
ギシ

YOU SHOULD AT LEAST GREET THEM

ギシ

OH, THE KIDS ARE HERE

!!
!!
!!

JOE'S JUST NOT IN THE MOOD TO EAT. IF YOU WANT THERE'S FOOD FOR EVERYONE

HE'S AWAKE

ぱくぱく

WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE?

OH, IT'S YOU PEOPLE

WE'RE HERE TO LEAVE DAMPEI TANGE SOME FOOD

LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE HERE

ARE WE ALLOWED TO SEE HIM?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT IT LIKE THAT. WE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTING

...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME

IT'S VERY NICE OF YOU, BUT THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT

WHAT !?

HEH

THE OWNER OF THE STORE I WORK IN GAVE IT TO US

YOUKO ...

WHY? IN THIS PLACE ...?

WHY ?

HUHUHU... EVERYTIME I MEET YOU IT ON POLICE RELATED BUSINESS. FIRST THE COURTROOM, THEN THE JUVENILE PRISON AND NOW HERE. CAN'T WE MEET IN A NORMAL PLACE, YABUKI

SHE'S GOING TO BE HIS PERSONAL GUARAN-TOR!

DON'T TALK LIKE THAT! THE YOUNG LADY READ ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO DAMPEI TANGE AND CAME TO CHECK ON HIM!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! IT'S YOU THAT ALWAYS APPEARS IN THESE NO GOOD PLACES!

I WILL BE LEAV-ING SOON

WE'RE SORTING THE LAST DETAILS

A PERSONAL GUARANTOR... SO THE OLD MAN WILL BE RELEASED !

IT'S TOO HARSH FOR HIM

HOW THE DAUGHTER OF THE FAMOUS MIKINOSUKE SHIRAKI, OF VERY HIGH CLASS, IS ACQUAINTED TO PEOPLE LIKE THESE?

BUT IT WAS NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS

YOU HELPED US...

YOU WOULD BE HAPPY IF HE BECAME A LIVING CORPSE WOULDN'T YOU?
I DON'T THINK HE HAS THOUGH

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT RELEASING DAMPEI TANGE, WHO'S JUST BEEN BANISHED FROM THE BOXING WORLD, A LIVING CORPSE, WILL MAKE HIM HAPPY?

IT'S AN ORDER, RIGHT

WE ARE WELCOME, HUH

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DAMPEI WHO ASKED, YOU TWO ARE ALSO WELCOME

HE LET GO OF HIS PRIDE AND ASKED IF HE COULD GO SEE MY GRANDFATHER AFTER HE IS RELEASED

STOP IT, JOE, PLEASE

DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S A CORPSE OR ANYTHING, YOU RELEASED HIM, RIGHT? YOU WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I THANK YOU, RIGHT? LET ME BOW TO YOU, IS THAT ENOUGH?

I THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART

...THIS IS... MISS...

NOTHING I CAN DO WILL BE ENOUGH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE

HEH!

YES

LETS GO EVERYONE, THE CAR IS WAITING OUTSIDE

HOW CAN HE LOWER HIS HEAD LIKE THAT?

IT'S PITIFUL I CAN'T STAND THIS!

NO, THEY CAN WALK BACK HOME

THE PLACE WE ARE GOING TO IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN. IS THE INN STREET FAR FROM HERE?

YES,

JOE, NISHI, YOU TOO

SO, DAMPEI, PLEASE GET IN THE CAR

YES, OF COURSE! WE'RE GETTING IN YOUR WAY, ARE WE? WE DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO GO!

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL HEAD HOME

I'LL BE BACK SOON

I HAVE A DEBT WITH THE LADY SO I MUST GO AS SHE WISHES

THAT WOMAN! I HATE HER!

SNOB!

DAMN IT!

BLEEEEH !

IDIOT !

7"

COUGH! COUGH!

THAT PANNEL REALLY HAS NO TEXT

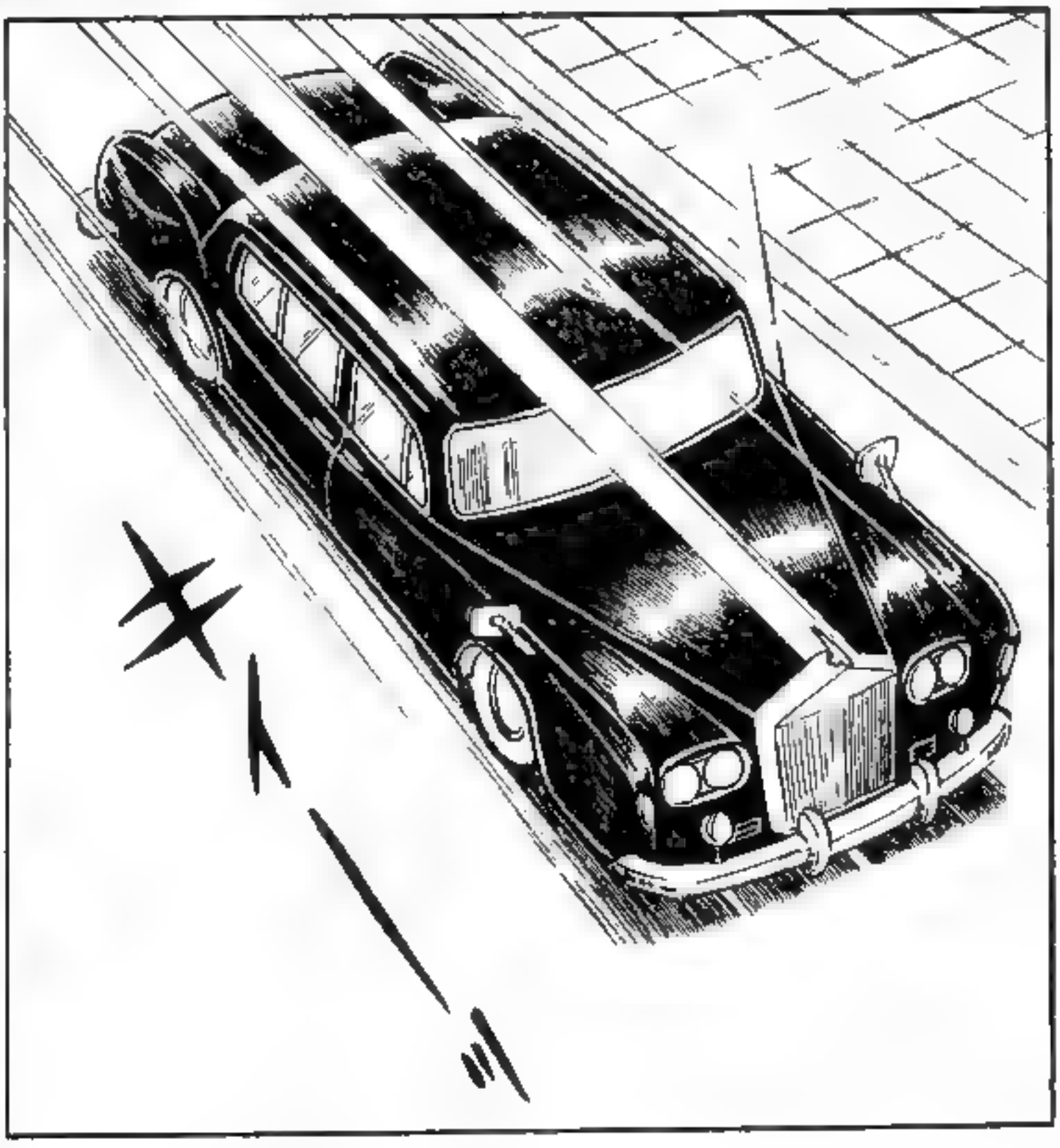
TO THE SHIRAKI BOXING GYM
THE GYM

TO WHICH OF THE SHIRAKI PROPERTIES ARE WE GOING?

IT'S NOT THAT I WANT YOUR GRATITUDE, JUST PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE FACES. MY GRANDFATHER WANTED TO SEE YOU

PLEASE ...
SO... HERE WE ARE

OH!



S B C
SHIRAKI BOXING CLUB

BUT ALSO A FITNESS CENTER, SAUNA, PROJECTION ROOM AND ACCOMODATION FOR THE FIGHTERS

INSIDE WE HAVE NOT ONLY A BOXING GYM,

IS THIS A GYM OR A DELUXE MANSION...?

THIS IS AMAZING !

THIS...

UGH !

AFTERWARDS WE SHOULD TAKE A TOUR OF THE GYM. RIKIISHI SHOULD BE DOING HIS TRAINING

LETS GO INSIDE. MY GRANDFATHER IS WAITING IN HIS OFFICE

Y... YES

ドドタドタ

WHAT'S HAPPENING JOE?

WHAT HAPPENED? THE ELEVATOR IS THIS WAY

HURRY UP

I MUST TAKE THE MUD OFF MY FEET

RIKIISHI

RIKII-SHI

MR. SHI-RAKI IS WAITING FOR US IN HIS OFFICE

STOP MUM-BLING, JOE

RIKII-SHI...

RIKII-SHI...

LETS TAKE A TOUR OF THE TRAIN-ING ROOM FIRST THEN.

IT SEEMS LIKE YABUKI-KUN IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT RIKIISHI. WELL,

THIS WAY PLEASE,

THIS WAY

45話

WOW!

THEY HAVE THIS MANY PEOPLE!?

WOW!

K.O

K.O

K.O

YOUR HEELS ARE TOUCHING THE FLOOR TOO MUCH,

TRY TO SLIDE WITH THE TIP OF YOUR FEET

YOU'RE OVER THE LIMIT. IS THE ROADWORK YOU'RE DOING NOT ENOUGH?

NO... THAT'S NOT IT...

HEY, YOU! YOU'RE LOSING BALANCE

USE YOUR WHOLE BODY WHEN YOU PUNCH!

USE THE UPPER BODY,

TRY SOME WEAVING!

AN UPPER! FIRE AN UPPER!

AGH!

SO WE HAD A TEST TO JUDGE THEIR POTENTIAL, THESE ONES HERE ARE THE ONES THAT WERE SELECTED

WE HAVE THE BEST FACILITIES IN THE CONTINENT, SO AS SOON AS WE STARTED ACCEPTING MEMBERS, ALL THE SRONG YOUNG MEN IN THE COUNTRY GATHERED

THIS GYM IS ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL IF YOU COMPARE WITH WHAT WE HAVE!

AMAZING FACILITIES!

M... MISS...

WELCOME . . .

SHIRA

WHERE'S RIKIISHI ?

MORE IMPORTANTLY,

THE TRAINERS ARE ALL FORMER JAPANESE OR ORIENTAL CHAMPIONS. WE ALSO HAVE A DOCTOR'S OFFICE WHERE EVERYDAY DOCTORS FROM THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL CHECK ON THE HEALTH OF OUR FIGHTERS

ROOKIE KING ?!

HE MUST BE OUT IN A MATTER RELATED TO THE FIGHT

HE HAS JUST CONFIRMED HIS PLACE IN THE FINAL OF THE ROOKIE KING TOURNAMENT

I DON'T SEE HIM HERE

RIKIISHI-KUN,

I'VE BROUGHT DAMPEI AND THE OTHERS, GRANDFA-THER

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, HE'S SURE TO WIN THE ROOKIE KING TITLE

HE HAS WON EVERY FIGHT UP TO THE SEMIFINAL BY THE WAY OF KNOCKOUT, SO HE'S DRAWING THE ATENTION OF THE NEWSPAPERS

I'M SORRY TO BOTHER

EH...

HE SEEMS TO BE A BIT OB-SESSED WITH THAT HIMSELF

OH! YOU CAME

PLEASE COME IN

YABUKI-KUN, WOULD YOU LIKE A SEAT?

ROOKIE KING, EH?

PLEASE, PLEASE, THERE'S NOTHING TO THANK ME FOR. IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU FELT THAT MOMENT

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE

EH... OH...

AS EXPECTED, RIKIISHI

THE REASON WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE,

WHILE WE'RE ON THIS SUBJECT

THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE KIND

THE BOXING ASSOCIATION'S DECISION WAS A BIT TOO COLD

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TAKE A PLACE HERE WITH US AT SHIRAKI BOXING GYM?

TANGE-KUN

カチリ

OF COURSE YOU WOULD BE A TRAINER, YOU JUST WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE RING AS A SECOND, AS YOU NEED A LICENSE FOR THAT

I KNEW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS...

WORKING FROM THE SHADOWS YOU CAN DEDICATE ALL YOUR TIME TO YABUKI-KUN IF YOU WISH, KEEPING YOUR DREAM OF TOMORROW ALIVE. I SEE NO REASON TO REFUSE

HOWEVER,

I VALUE THE POTENTIAL I SAW IN YOU AT THE JUVENILE PRISON VERY MUCH. I WOULD APRECIATE SUCH TALENTED FIGHTER HERE AT SHIRAKI BOXING GYM

STOP JOKING AROUND! HOW CAN YOU DECIDE THAT ON YOUR OWN!?

SHOULD I HAVE A SAY IN THIS!?

YABUKI-KUN!

FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE OF THE JAPANESE BOXING WORLD

ME... ANYHOW...

THE HONOURED MASTER TANGE-KUN AND THE GREAT FRIEND NISHI-KUN, IF YOU TWO JOINED US I WOULD BE HAPPY BEYOND ANY MEASURE

WHAT WILL IT BE?

OH!

SO, I BEG YOU...

THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW THEY WILL BECOME FLOWERS THAT NEVER BLOOMED

JOE... NISHI...

YA-BUKI-KUN

THE HOPES FOR TO-MORROW THAT SEEMED LOST ARE BACK, JOE

TO-MOR ROW ...

WHAT'S WITH YOU, JOE?

LOOKS LIKE YABUKI-KUN IS OBSESSING ABOUT SOME INSIGNIFICANT DETAIL

HU HU

MY HONEST INTENTIONS ARE MAKING THE MODERN FACILITIES OF THIS GYM USEFUL TO YOUNG PROMISING MEN LIKE YOU

THAT IS, IF YOU ARE WILLING TO,

I CAN SEE THE DAY WHEN RIKIISHI-KUN, ALONG WITH YABUKI-KUN AND NISHI-KUN WILL BE CALLED THE YOUNG TRIUNVIRATE OF THE SHIRAKI BOXING GYM AND WILL SOAR THROUGH JAPANESE BOXING

IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH WHY DON'T YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT?

SHUT UP

IT AFFECTS HIS HONOR OR SOMETHING

BEING INDEBTED TO THE SHIRAKI FAMILY IRRITATES HIM

THAT'S WHY! COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME TIME TO THINK?

WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO TRAIN A POTENTIAL AS BIG AS YOURS. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO THANK US FOR ANYTHING.

WHEN ME AND MY GRANDFATHER STARTED THIS GYM, WE AIMED FOR IT TO BECOME A FIRST CLASS CENTER.

I'LL SAY EVERY WORD

NO...

BE QUIET JUST FOR A MINUTE?

CAN'T YOU

TRIUN-VIRATE ?

YES . . .

PLEASE YOUKO, GIVE YABUKI-KUN SOME TIME TO THINK

BUT I'M TRAPPED FROM ALL SIDES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE IN THE BOXING WORLD UNLESS I TAKE THIS ONE CHANCE. THERE'S NO WAY OTHER THAN JOINING THE SHIRAKI BOXING GYM. WITH THE OLD MAN... WITH NISHI...

SURELY I DON'T WANT TO OWE ANYTHING TO YOUKO... I ALSO HAVE A STRANGE ATTACHMENT TO THE SHABBY GYM THAT DAMBEI BUILT UNDER THE BRIDGE

I'M DONE

RIKII-SHI

AH

OH! YOU'VE REACHED A DECISION?

I'VE DE-CI-DED

R

R

JOE, I HEARD YOU HAD LEFT THE PRISON, CON-GRATULATIONS ON THAT

RIKII-SHI

THIS IS... EVERYONE'S HERE

HEY

YES

THE FINAL OF THE ROOKIE KING TOURNAMENT IS CLOSE, FROM TODAY WE'LL START THE REAL TRAINING. STOP CHATTING AND COME WITH ME

HEY, RIKIISHI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HE'S GOTTEN STRONGER

THIS GUY

WE ARE ASKING YABUKI-SAN AND THE OTHERS TO JOIN OUR SHIRAKI BOXING GYM

WHAT IS IT MISS?

RIKII-SHI-KUN

I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE

IS THAT SO?

OH,

I'M BUSY, SO I'LL BE GOING

WE-LL

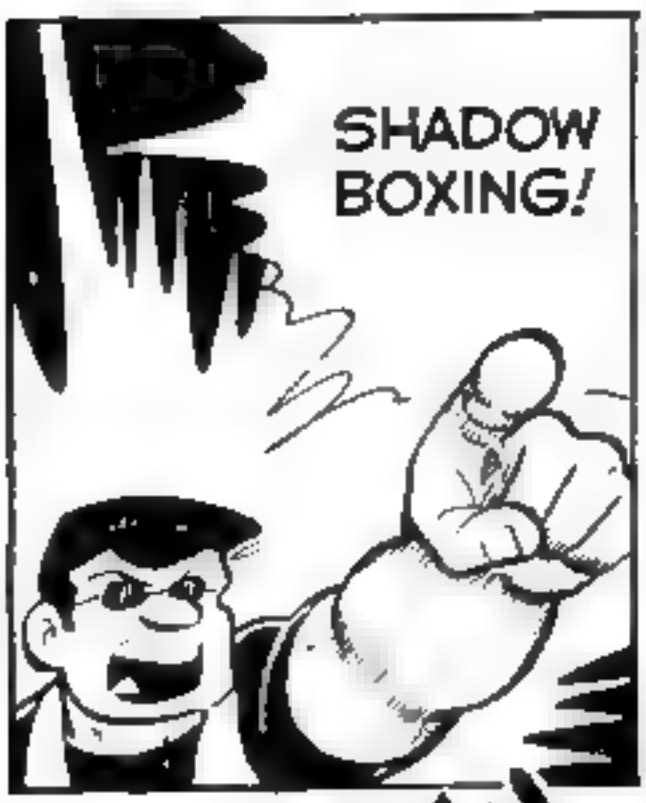
TRYING TO SHOW OFF...

HE'S TOO BUSY...

WHAT WAS THAT? IT FEELS LIKE HE'S A WHOLE SIZE BIGGER

ONE!
TWO!
TWO!
ONE!

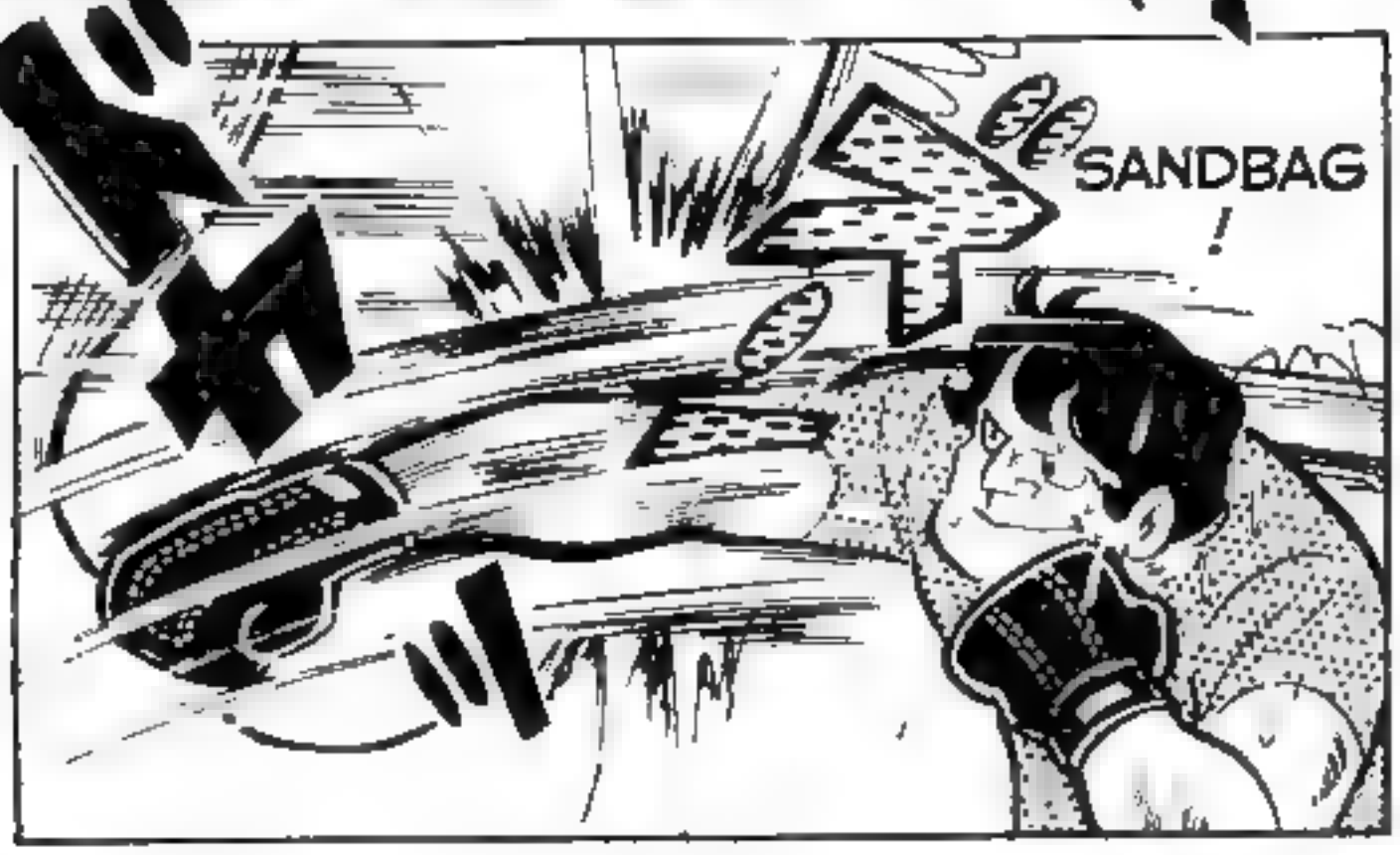
NOW LET'S STRETCH!


SHADOW BOXING!

NOW ROPE JUMPING!

SPEED BALL!

SHIRAKI CLUB
LOWER YOUR UPPER BODY!


SANDBAG!

SPARRING
!

ドカ!!

UGH
!

I REF USE

AS I THOU GHT...

IF HE KEEPS THIS UP THE FIRST ROOKIE KING TITLE FOR THE SHI-RAKI GYM IS A SURE THING
!

WOW! MAGNIFI-CENT!

I HUMBLY REFUSE YOUR OFFER TO JOIN THE SHIRAKI GYM

YOU REFUSE...? YOU MEAN THAT...

HAHA!
HAHA!

WHAT'S THIS...?

J... JOE...

LET'S GO HOME OLD MAN

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONDITIONS THEN LET ME HEAR THEM

THE REAS ON..?

I KNOW THAT THERE'S A RULE THAT SAYS THAT FIGHTERS FROM THE SAME GYM CAN'T FIGHT. THAT'S THE ONLY REASON

THE REASON IS SIMPLE

I'LL DO WHATEVER IS WITHIN MY REACH

I'D SAY MY GOAL IN LIFE IS TO FIGHT HIM ...!

YABUKI-KUN, YOU WANT TO FIGHT RIKIISHI-KUN?

THEN ...

I STILL HAVE BOTH MY FISTS

WHAT ?

YOU WOULD BE A FOOL NOT TO JOIN THE SHIRAKI GYM BECAUSE OF RIKIISHI. IF YOU DON'T YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BOX ANYMORE

DON'T SAY THAT, JOE

I ALSO HAVE A PLAN THAT WON'T LET RIKIISHI REFUSE A FIGHT WITH ME

IT MAY LOOK UNREASONABLE NOW, BUT I HAVE A PLAN TO FORCE THE BOXING ASSOCIATION TO APPROVE OUR PRO LICENSES

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AMATEUR?

PEH !

JOE...

UHUHU HUHU!

AN AMATEUR, YOU SAY?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JOE?

THIS...!

WANNA FIGHT?

WHAT ?

LET GO! DAMN IT!

NISHI! HELP ME TAKE JOE OUTSIDE!

STOP IT!

LET GO OF ME!

LET GO! PLEASE!

EH... YES!

WON'T YOU LET GO?!

SHIT! DON'T HOLD ME!

I'M GRATE-FUL FOR THE TALK WE HAD, HOWEVER...

NOTHING CAN BE DONE. DISTURBING THE SACRED TRAINING ROOM

THERE IS NO EXCUSE

SO... I'LL BE GOING

JUST FORGET WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

THE WAY JOE IS NOW...

RIKII-SHI!

RI...

JUST LET GO, NISHI YOU IDIOT!

OH!

JOE ...

THAT'S ENOUGH!

WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO MAKING SUCH A MESS THERE!

O... OLD MAN...

YOU'RE IMMATURE AND PRE-TENTIOUS! DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!

JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS IT YOU EVEN WANT TO DO!? WELL!?

JUST WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKIN' ANYWAYS!?

YOU GOT TOO MUCH PRIDE FOR YOUR DAMNED GOOD!

AND PRETE-NTIOUS ...?

I-IMMA TURE ...

WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO FOR YOU TO FIGHT WITH RIKIISHI RIGHT NOW!?

JUST CALM DOWN AND RETHINK THINGS OVER.

LISTEN TO ME, JOE.

IT WON'T MEAN ANYTHING EVEN IF YOU WON.

IT'S JUST SOME RANDOM BRAWL!

BECAUSE IT AIN'T EVEN A REAL MATCH!

NOT A SINGLE GOD-DAMN THING!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT!

YOU AIN'T NOTHING BUT A WILD MUTT WHO CAN'T EVEN CONTROL HIMSELF WHEN SOMEONE CALLS H.M AN "AMATEUR."

HAHA, THAT'S RIGHT.

...

WHA ...

BUT FRANKLY SPEAKING... YOU DON'T HAVE A SHOT IN A MILLION OF WINNING AGAINST RIKIISHI WITH THE WAY HE IS RIGHT NOW.

O-OLD MAN ...

BUT SOME THINGS YOU JUST DON'T SAY ...

I KNOW HE'S OUT OF LINE,

YOU REALLY THINK A PUREBRED DOG LIKE RIKIISHI WOULD LOSE TO A MANGY LITTLE MUTT LIKE YOU!? IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU WOULD BE BEATEN TO TATTERS!

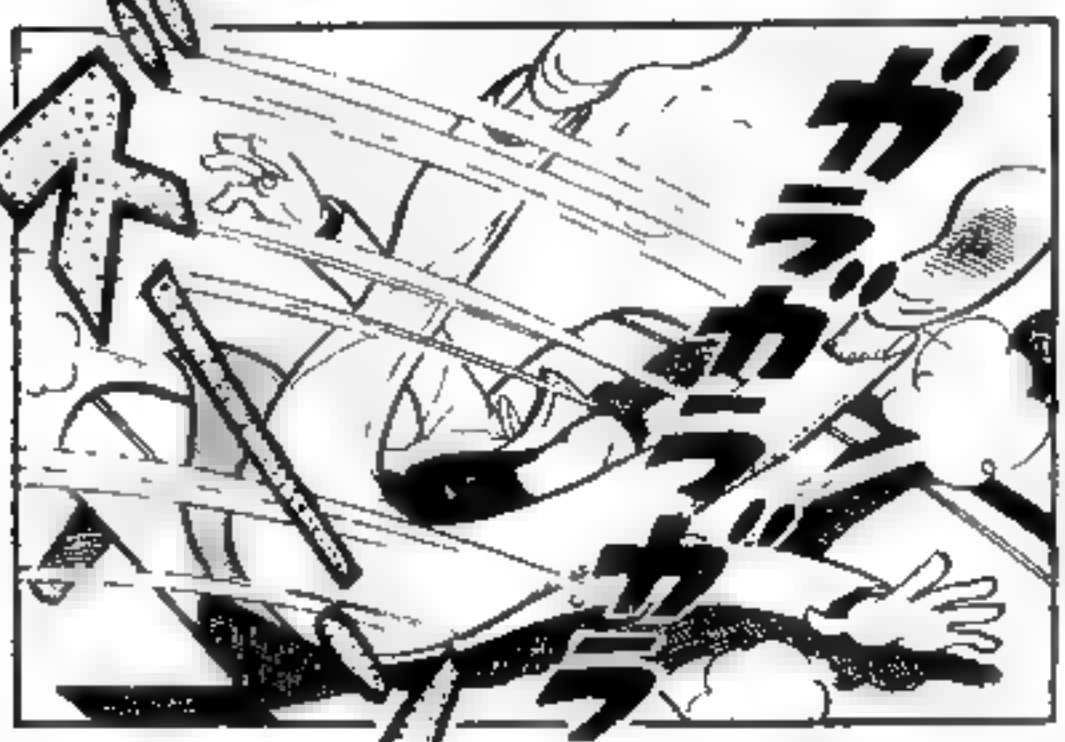
WHA ...

WELL WHY DON'T WE SEE WHO'LL REALLY BE THE ONE BEATEN TO A PULP!

A MANGY LITTLE MUTT!?

YOU THINK I'M ...

YOU RETARD! YOU *STILL* CAN'T OPEN YOUR EYES TO REALITY!?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THE GUY THAT RIKIISHI WAS SPARRING WITH BACK THERE, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THAT IS?
SINCE YOU STILL CAN'T FACE REALITY, LET ME TELL YOU
...

HUFF
HUFF
...
...

LIGHT-WEIGHT ...?

IS KAMAMOTO. HE IS ONE OF THE TOP RANKED FIGHTERS IN JAPAN'S LIGHTWEIGHT CLASS!

THAT MAN ...

.....?

.....

I'M SURE EVEN YOU CAN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND RIKIISHI'S TRUE STRENGTH AFTER WHAT I'VE JUST SAID.

NOT ONLY THAT, RIKIISHI WAS OVERWHELMINGLY DOMINATING KAMAMOTO BACK IN THERE!

THE FEATHERWEIGHT CONTENDER RIKIISHI IS SPARRING WITH A VETERAN BOXER OF A WEIGHT CLASS HIGHER THAN THE ONE HE'S IN!

THAT'S RIGHT!

IS THAT THE RIKIISHI OF TODAY IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE RIKIISHI BACK IN JUVIE!

IN ANY CASE... WHAT YOU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND,

MEANING THAT WHEN HE CALLED YOU AN AMATEUR JUST NOW,

HE WASN'T INSULTING YOU OR ANYTHING... HE WAS SIMPLY STATING THE TRUTH!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT I'M A GUY WHO GETS MORE FIRED UP THE STRONGER HIS OPPONENTS ARE.

OLD MAN ...

STILL GOING ON WITH THAT ARROGANT NONSENSE!?

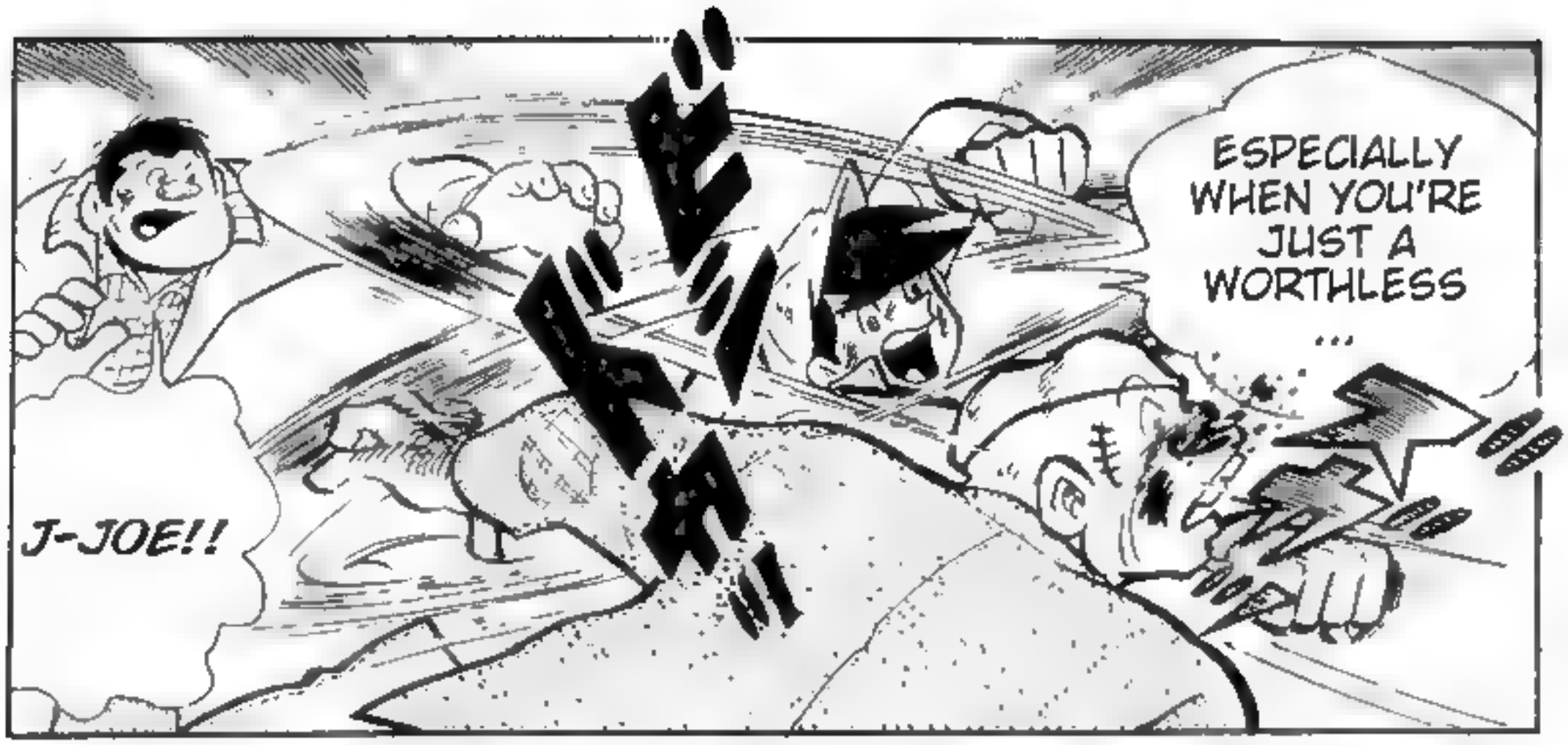
WHY YOU ....!

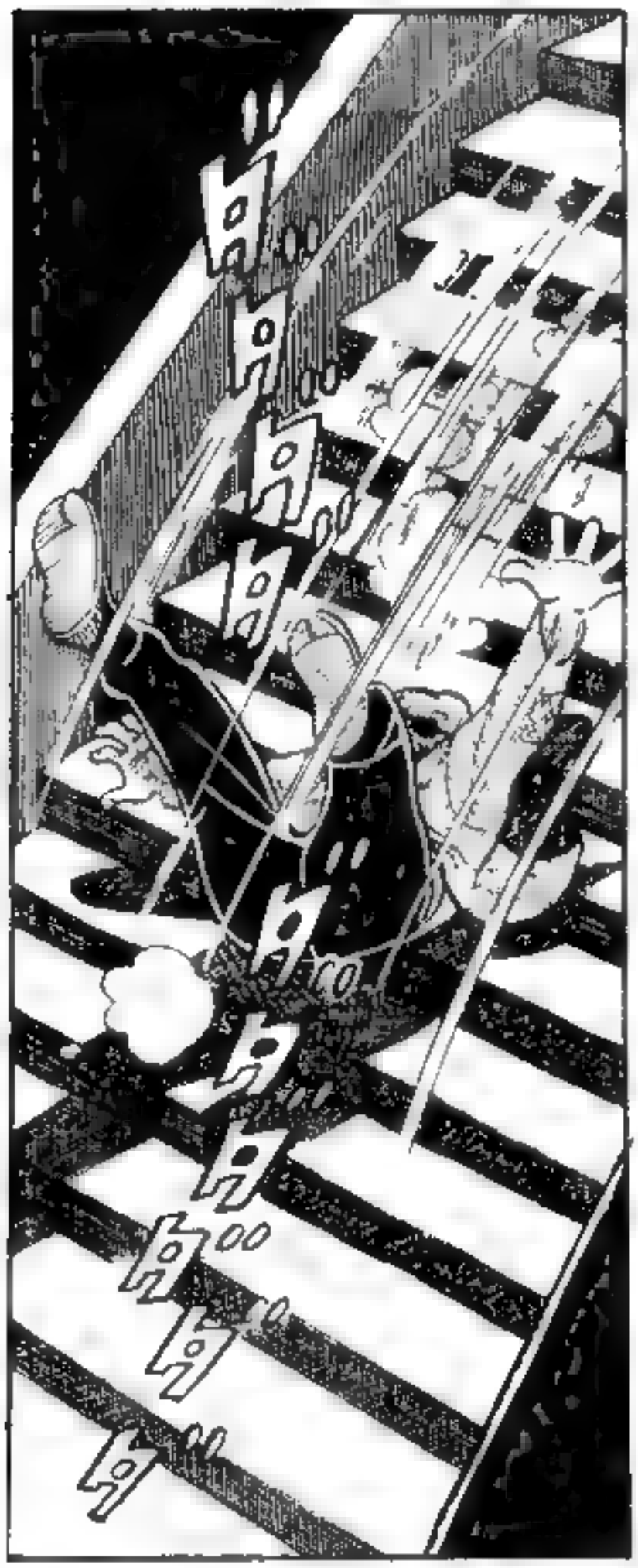
STOP ACTING LIKE...

THE DAMN BOSS OF ME!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, JOE?

YOU'RE ...


J-JOE!!
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE JUST A WORTHLESS ...



STOP IT, JOE!!
TALENTLESS HACK WHO CAN'T EVEN GET ME ONE OR TWO PROFESSIONAL BOXING MATCHES!

HUFF ...

HUFF ...

AHH ...

HUFF ...

HUFF ...

HMF...

REALLY REALLY REALLY BAD!!

THIS IS BAD!

OH NO ...

OLD MAN ...

...

I'M SORRY, I SAID TOO MUCH ...

LET'S STOP ALL THIS POINTLESS ARGUING BACK AND FORTH ...

UGH ...

C-COME ON, HANG IN THERE ...

THE SUN'S JUST ABOUT SETTING ANYWAYS.

LET'S HEAD BACK HOME FOR TODAY.

I UNDER-STAND ...

SHIRAKI BOXING

WILL YA?

NISHI, HELP ME CARRY HIM BACK HOME ...

SEEMS THEY HAVE LEFT ...

カ°°カ°°

....

....

BUT IN ANY CASE, JUST LOOKING AT THEM IS JUST TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

MAYBE THEY DESERVE IT FOR GETTING THEMSELVES STUCK IN THAT MESS ...

THOSE THREE!

THEY'RE LIKE A BOG OF MISFORTUNE ...

YES ...

Y-YES ...

BACK TO TRAINING!

ALRIGHT, EVERYONE! LET'S NOT JUST STAND THERE!

SEEING THEM IS JUST DEPRESSING.

I FEEL THE SAME WAY, MISS.

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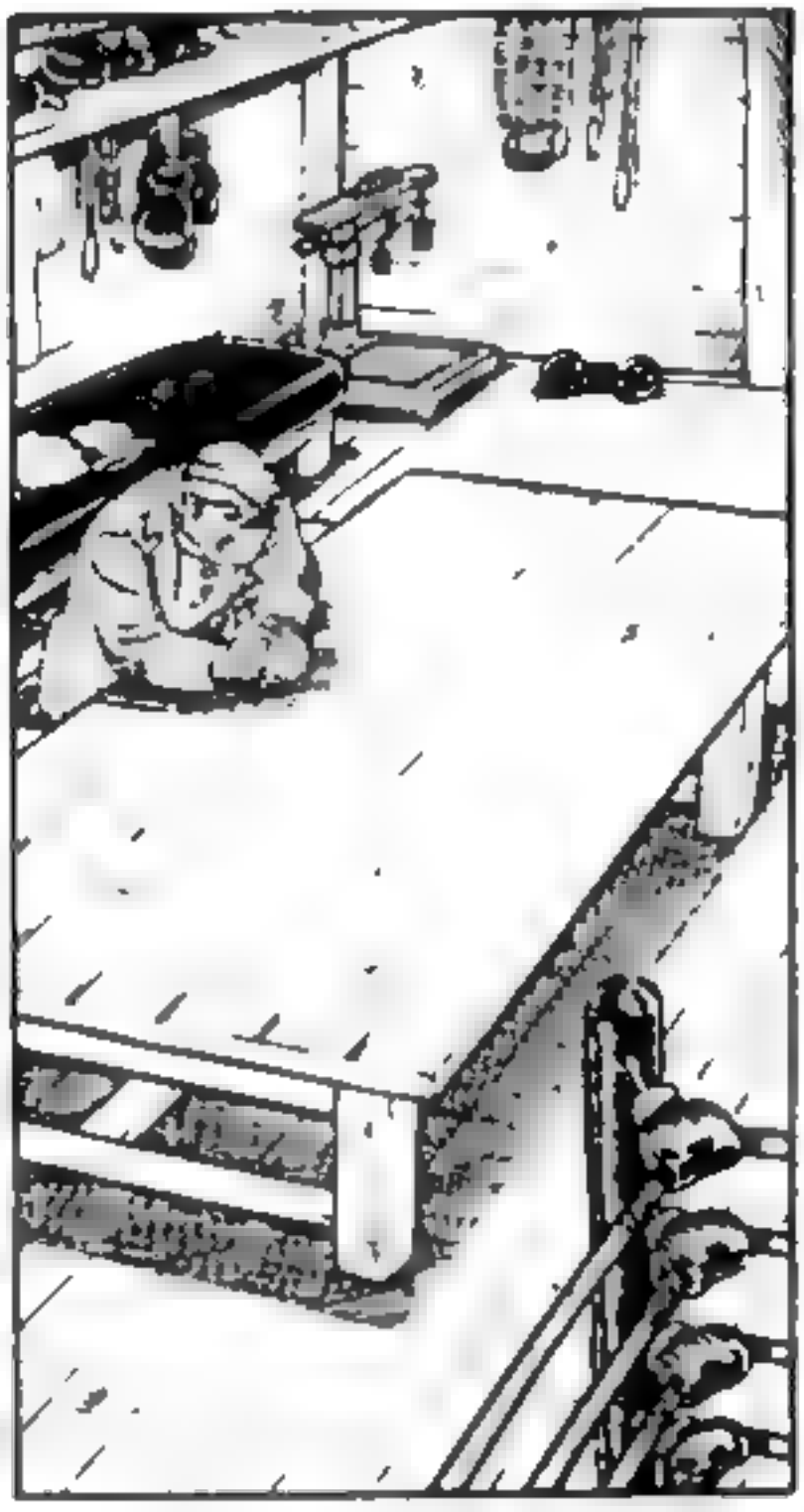
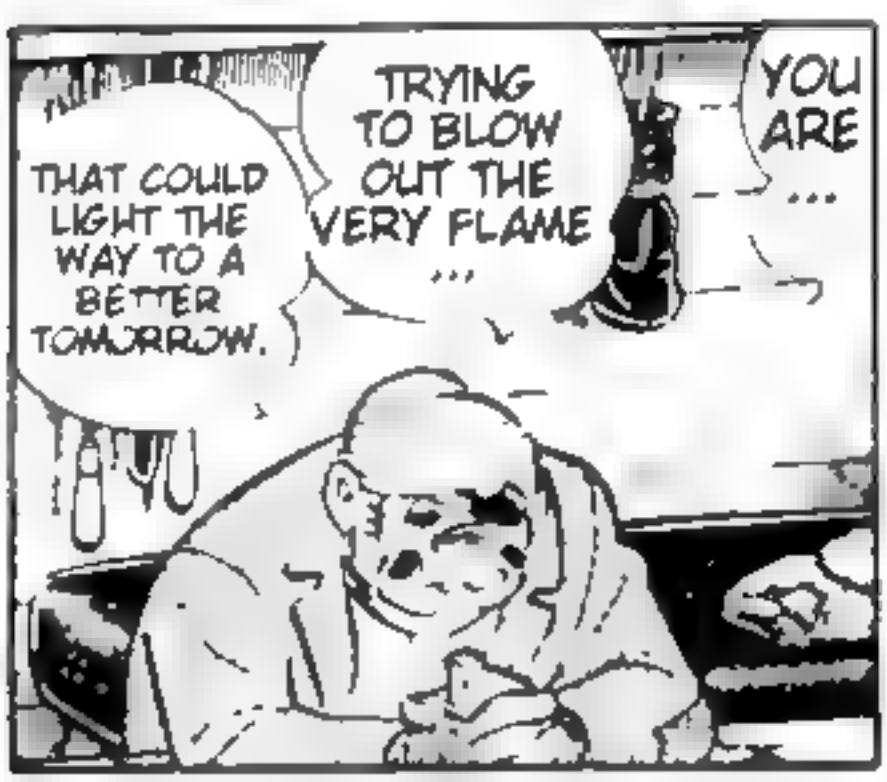
山下拳闘ジム




THAT COULD LIGHT THE WAY TO A BETTER TOMORROW.
TRYING TO BLOW OUT THE VERY FLAME ...
YOU ARE ...

JOE ...

GRUMBLING CONSTANTLY OVER WHAT'S DONE IS JUST PATHETIC.

STOP!

JUST WHO WAS IT THAT WENT ON ABOUT CROSSING A BRIDGE WITH STRICT DEVOTION, SWEAT AND TEARS!?

IF YOU'RE A MAN, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH.

WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A BRIDGE TO CROSS ANYMORE ...

BUT ...

I DID SAY THAT.

TRUE ...

WITH OUR OWN HANDS!

IF THERE AIN'T NO BRIDGE, THEN ALL WE GOTTA DO IS BUILD ONE!

IT'S A LITTLE CRUDE, BUT IT'LL STILL ALLOW US TO BUILD THAT BRIDGE!

THAT I STILL HAD ANOTHER PLAN, REMEMBER?

I SAID BACK AT SHIRAKI GYM ...

ME, ON THE OTHER HAND ...

YOU CAN JUST SIT STILL AND WATCH FOR NOW.

WELL ...

I'M GONNA BUILD THAT BRIDGE WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!

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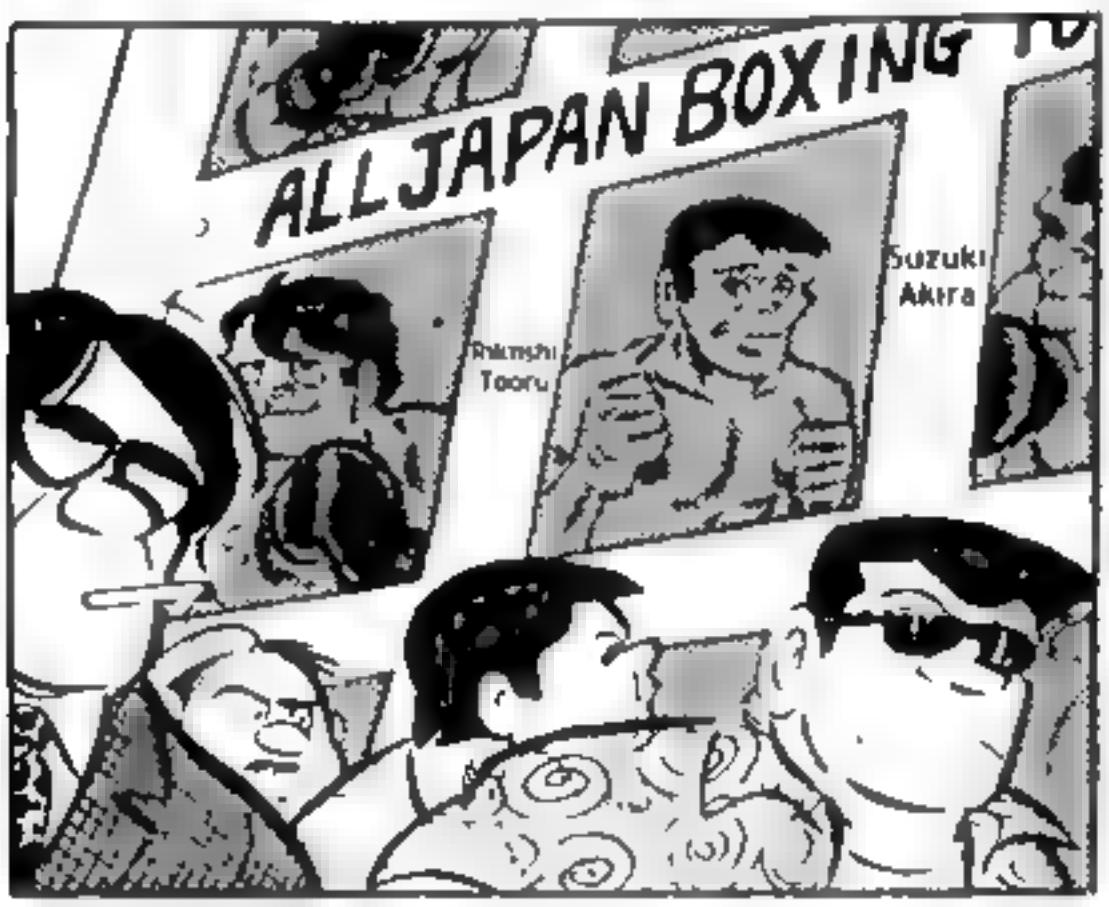
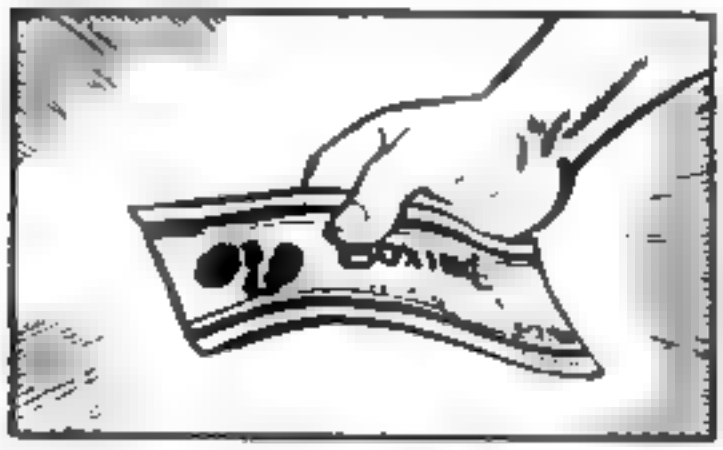
SIGN: TOKYO SUIDOUBASHIM KOURAKUEN HALL
SHOWA 44 ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS.

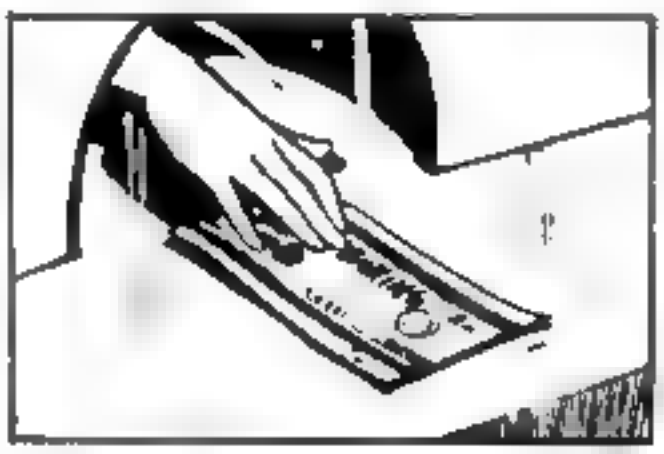


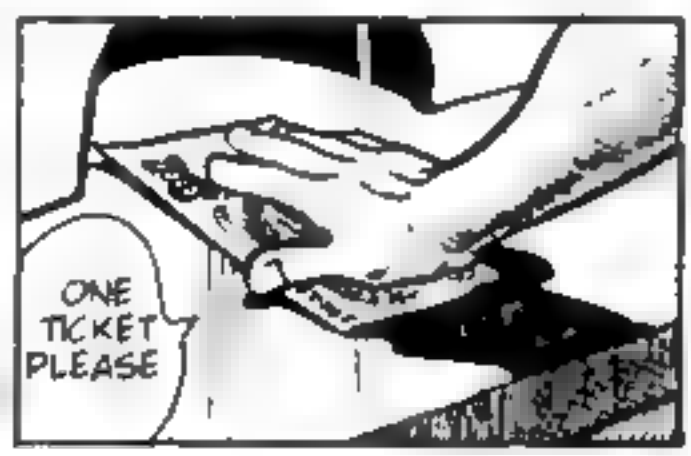
YOU CAN JUST TANGIBLY FEEL THE INTENSITY AND EXCITEMENT THAT FILLS THE STADIUM!

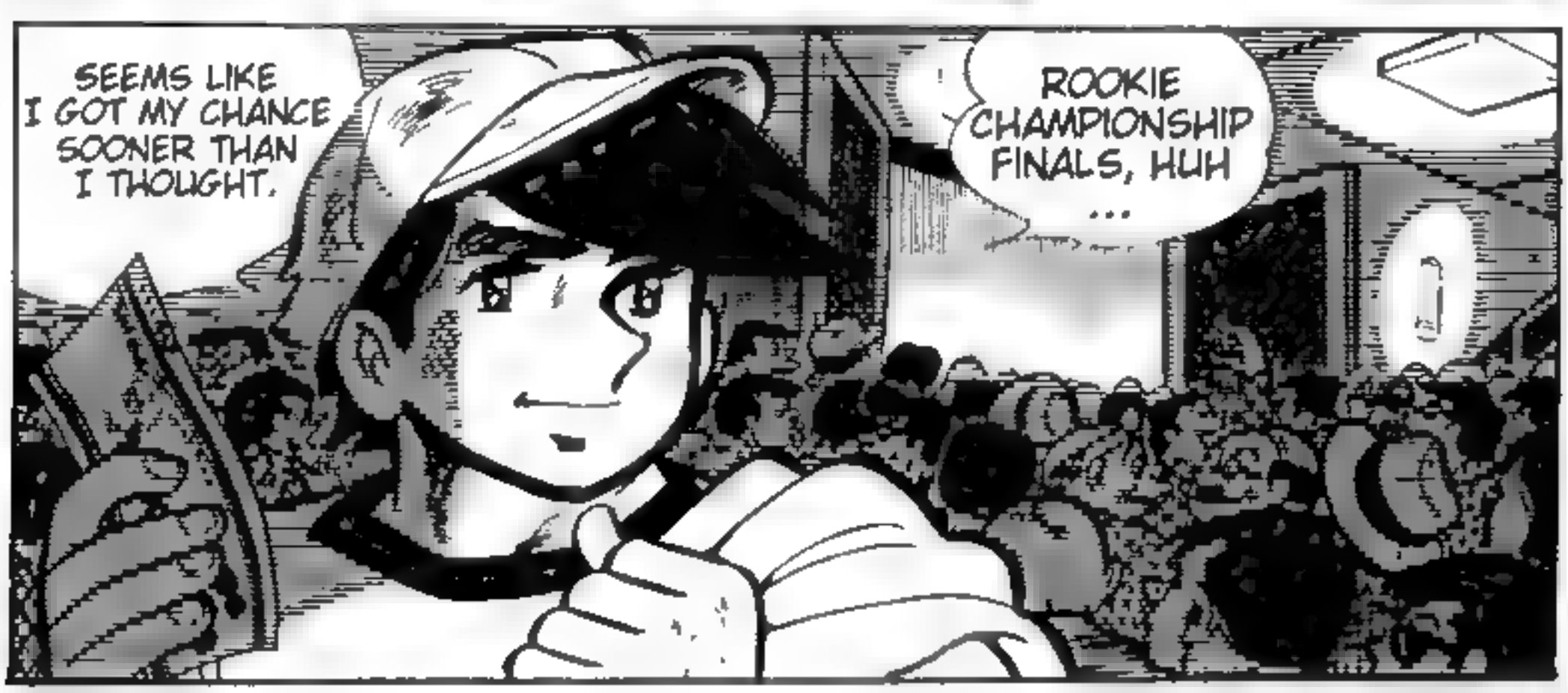
AFTER SURVIVING THE PRELIMINARIES AND WINNING THROUGH EACH OF THEIR FIGHTS IN KANTOU AND KANSAI, ONLY THE ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS NOW AWAIT THESE TALENTED ROOKIE REPRESENTATIVES.

AN EXPLOSION OF POWER FROM THE YOUNG GUNS!



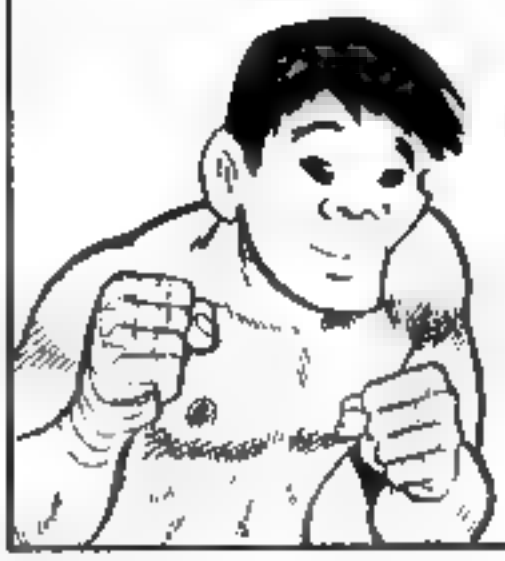




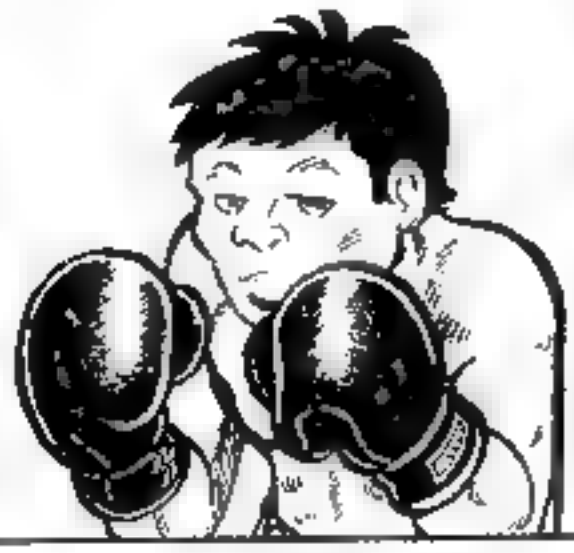


Bantamweight Class
Kantou Representative
Wolf Kanagushi
Asia Boxing Gym Member

Flyweight class
Kansai Representative
Suzuki Akira
Taiyou Gym Member



Flyweight class
Kantou Representative
Oota Teruhisa
Atsumi Boxing Gym Member



Featherweight Class
Kansai Representative
Hachisuka Saburou
Okishima Boxing Gym Member

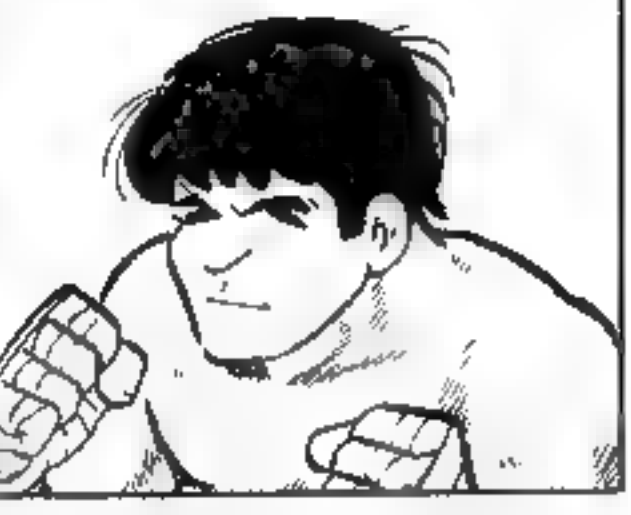
Featherweight Class
Kantou Representative
Rikishi Tooru
Shiraki Gym Member

Bantamweight Class
Kansai Representative
Aizawa Seiji
Nishi-Nihon Gym Member

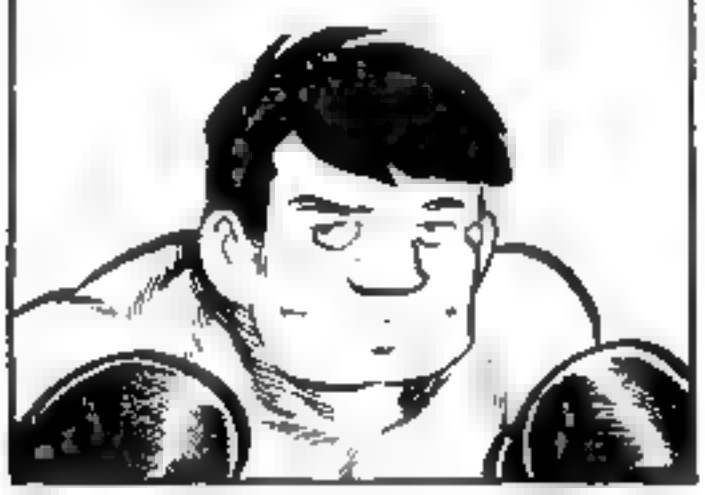
Welterweight Class
Kantou Representative
Kanou Jigorou
Bokutou Boxing Gym Member

Lightweight Class
Kansai Representative
Tatsumi Shousuke
Tennouji Boxing Gym Member

Lightweight Class
Kantou Representative
Okuyama Maru
Fuji Boxing Gym Member



Middleweight Class
Kansai Representative
Kodama Isaya
Watanabe Boxing Gym Member



Middleweight Class
Kantou Representative
Kimishima Keiichi
Otoha Club Member

Welterweight Class
Kansai Representative
Masaoka Shigeo
Umemoto Boxing Gym Member

SO THEY'RE THE BEST OF THE BEST ROOKIES WHO'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.

THE ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIPS ...

NICE PICTURE THEY'VE GOT OF'EM.

TODAY'S MY CHANCE TO REBUILD THAT BROKEN BRIDGE TO THE PROFESSIONAL BOXING WORLD ...

BUT IN ANY CASE ...

PLAYER CHANGING ROOMS

RESTRICTED ENTRY

LET'S SEE...

SO THE CHANGING ROOMS ARE THAT WAY...

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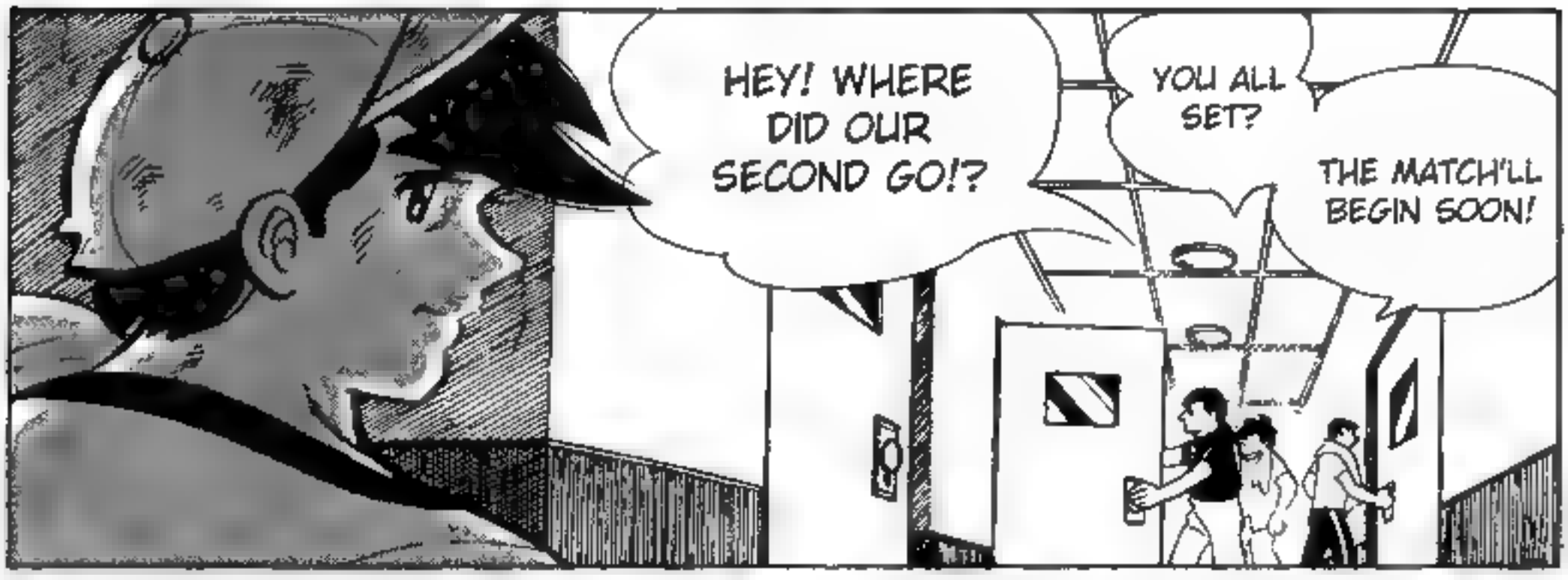
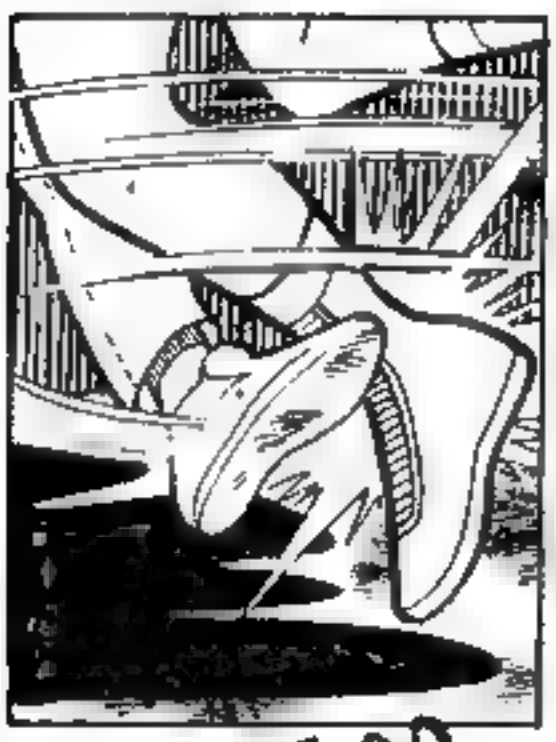
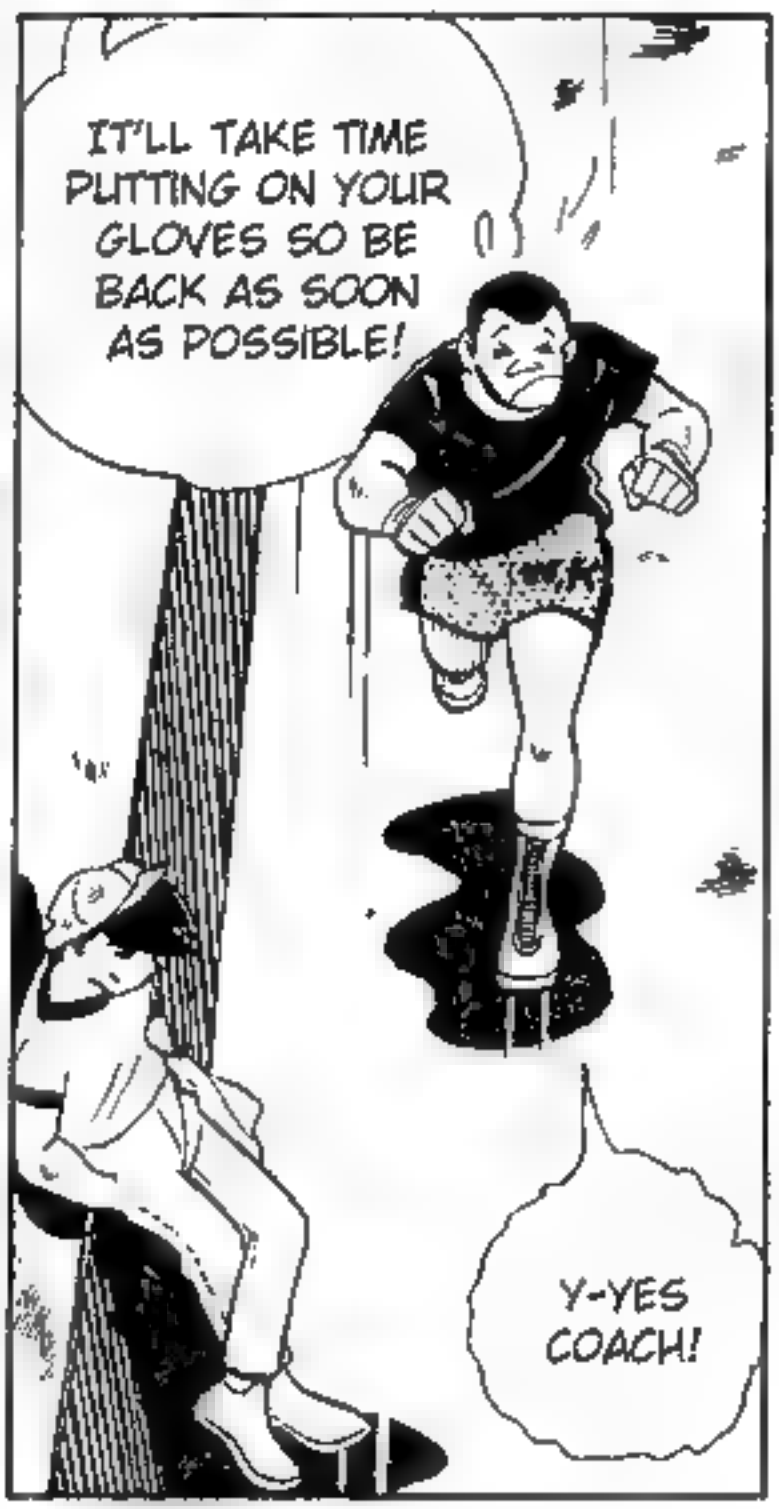

HEY! WHERE DID OUR SECOND GO!?
YOU ALL SET?
THE MATCH'LL BEGIN SOON!

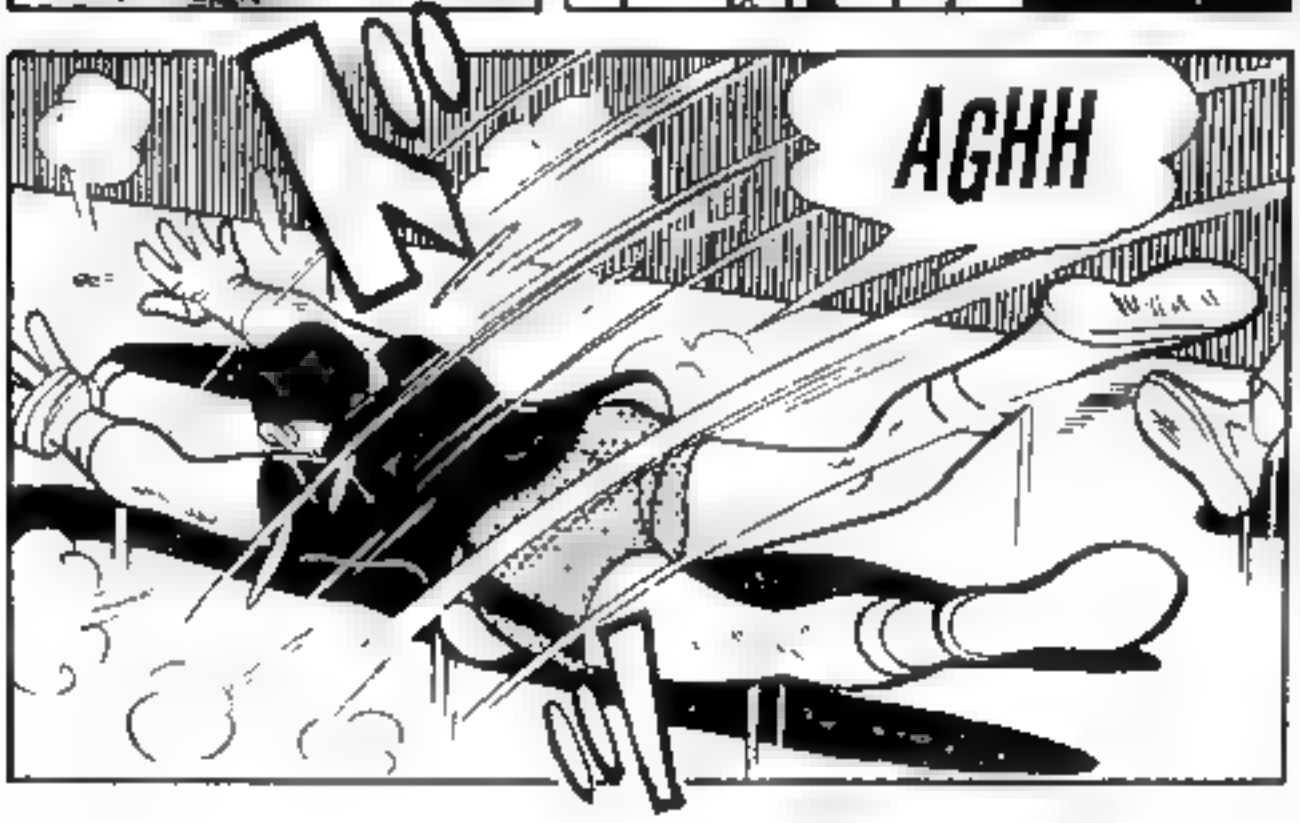
FINE. JUST MAKE IT QUICK!
GUESS YOU MUST BE PRETTY DAMN NERVOUS.
YES, COACH!

SORRY, BUT I COULDN'T GO LAST TIME I WENT. BUT I REALLY GOTTA PEE NOW TO CALM DOWN.
WHAT? THE WASHROOM AGAIN?



WASHROOM.. WASHROOM..


IT'LL TAKE TIME PUTTING ON YOUR GLOVES SO BE BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
Y-YES COACH!


AGHH

DID YOU TRIP ON MY FOOT OR SOMETHING?

HMM?

YOU TRIPPED ME ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU...

OWW...

DIDN'T REALIZE ...?

YOU...

I DIDN'T REALIZE.

OH MY BAD.

I THINK HE WAS ABOUT TO HIT ME TOO.

THIS GUY FELL BY HIMSELF AND THEN ACCUSED ME OF TRIPPING HIM.

THE HELL ARE YOU WASTING TIME FOR!?

WHAT'S WRONG, KANA-GUSHI!

GO TAKE YOUR DAMN LEAK AND BE BACK ALREADY!

STOP WASTING TIME!

Y-YES...

YOU SON OF A...

W-WHAT ...!?

BUT AGAINST ANYONE ELSE, HE'D LOSE.

I GUESS HE COULD WIN AGAINST WEAKLINGS AND COWARDS.

MUST BE A PRETTY LOUSY BOXER.

EASILY TRIPPING OVER HIMSELF LIKE THAT...

JEEZ...

HERE AND THERE, YOU SEE.

OH, BUT I AM INVOLVED.

WHO ARE YOU ANYWAYS!?

THE HELL DID YOU SAY JUST NOW!?

THIS IS THE CHANGING ROOM FOR THE FIGHERS! ACCESS IS FORBIDDEN TO ALL THOSE UNINVOLVED!

Wolf Kanagushi

MOVE IT.

THE FLYWEIGHT FINALS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN.

YOU ALL READY, YET?

SMUG SOUNDING NICKNAME HE'S GOT...

WOLF KANA-GUSHI, HUH...

THE ACTUAL FIGHTER LOOKS AS IF HE'S SCARED OUT OF HIS WITS.

HA, LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY ONE FOCUSED HERE ARE THE COACH AND THE ASSISTANTS.

AND THE MOUTH-PIECE AS WELL!

RIGHT.

FU

DON'T FORGET THE TOWEL,

WELL, IF IT ISN'T YABUKI!

AH!

YABUKI?

THEN WE'LL WATCH FROM THE RINGSIDE.

DO YOUR BEST, RIKIISHI!

JUST KILLING SOME TIME, THAT'S ALL.

NO SPECIAL REASON.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT.

WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?

BEEN AWHILE SINCE WE LAST MET, MISS.

HEH,

DID YOU COME TO CONGRATULATE ME AS I ENTER THE ROAD TO FAME AND GLORY? HAHA...

WELL HELLO THERE.

WHAT DID HE COME HERE FOR...?

HMM...

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. IT'S JUST THE ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS.

FAME AND GLORY ..?

ALL IT MEANS IS THAT YOU'RE JUST A NEWBORN CHICK.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS. .

HE HAS A STRANGE GLINT IN HIS EYES...

WHO KNOWS IF THIS CHICK WILL BECOME A FINE ROOSTER OR END UP ON SOMEONE'S DINNER PLATE?

NO, HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US.

MR. SHIRAKI, IF I MAY ASK...

IS THAT BOY OVER THERE WITH YOU?

I SEE.

THE GUY WANDERING OVER THERE.

THAT'S HIM.

TAKE HIM AWAY!

WHY YOU...!

HEY! DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN BACK THERE SAYING, "RESTRICTED ENTRY?"

HAHA, OF COURSE HOW ELSE WOULD I HAVE FOUND MY WAY HERE?

IT'S SIGN FOR TROU-BLE...

THAT LOOK OF HIS IS DEFINITELY NOT NORMAL.

I'LL JUST COME BACK ANOTHER TIME.

HAHA... ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. NOTHING TO GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT.

KEEP ON WALKING, YOU!

HE MUST BE CRAZY!

HIT 'IM!

YES, RIGHT THERE! COME ON! ANOTHER STRAIGHT!

WHAT'S WRONG AIZAWA!? GET A GRIP!

NOW WHERE'S MY SEAT...?

SEEMS LIKE THE HATCHING OF THE CHICKS HAS STARTED.

OH...

IT'S WAAAAY BACK THERE!

LOOK! YOUR SEAT IS AT THE VERY TOP!

NOR THERE...

KEEP IT DOWN, WILL YA!?

NOT HERE...

WOLF KANGUSHI, THE HOPE OF KANTOU'S FAMOUS ASIA BOXING GYM, IS COMPLETELY DOMINATING THE FIGHT!

WHAT AMAZING OFFENSE!

CAN'T EVEN SEE THE PLAYERS ALL THE WAY FROM HERE...

DAMN, THIS IS AT THE VERY EDGE.

WOLF KANA-GUSHI...?

HE'S DRIVEN BACK AIZAWA TO THE ROPES!

WOLF KANAGUSH IS SURELY LIVING UP TO HIS REPUTATION AS THE HOT ROOKIE RIGHT NOW!

KA''

AIZAWA IS KNOCKED AROUND TO THE LEFT PITIFULLY BUT WOLF'S NOT DONE YET!

AND HIS LEFT HOOK HITS ITS MARK!

WK

ANOTHER HOOK!

OH...

THE BANTAMWEIGHT WOLF KANAGUSHI AND THE FEATHERWEIGHT RIKIISHI TOORU ARE SAID TO BE THE TWO MAIN ATTRACTIONS OF THIS YEAR'S ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIPS!

DAMN STRAIGHT HE IS!

IS THAT WOLF GUY REALLY STRONG?

HEY, MISTER,

HM...

HIS LEGS HAVE COMPLETELY STOPPED MOVING!

AIZAWA IS PUSHED BACK TO THE ROPES AGAIN!

THIS'LL BE INTERESTING.

SO I TRIPPED OVER A STRONG ONE, DID I...

CHAIRMAN OOTAKA OF ASIA BOXING IS LOOKING ON BY WITH DELIGHT AT HOW THIS MATCH IS TURNING OUT.

UGH!

STOP! BACK TO YOUR NEUTRAL CORNERS!

A POWERFUL BLOW TO THE STOMACH!

THAT'S WOLF'S SPEAR-LIKE STRAIGHT FOR YA!

ALRIGHT!

HE DID IT!

AIZAWA CAN'T SEEM TO STAND BACK UP!

3!

2!

1!

COULDN'T BE ANYMORE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM!

THE NAME WOLF,

WHAT BRILLIANT EXECUTION OF A HIGH CLASS TECHNIQUE FROM KANAGUSHI THE ROOKIE!

FIRST THE ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND NEXT, THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!

YOU CAN BECOME THE ASIA BOXING CLUB'S 3RD WORLD CHAMPION!

ATTA BOY, WOLF!

WOLF KANAGUSHI!

OOTAKA ...?

LOOKS LIKE FANS THESE DAYS HAVE GOT A GOOD EYE, HAHA...

ASIA BOXING'S 3RD CHAMPION ...?

HE MUST BE ONE OF THE RINGLEADERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SHUTTING OUT DANPEI FROM THE BOXING ASSOCIATION ...!

I SEE, CHAIRMAN OOTAKA OF ASIA BOXING...

AND NOW THEY FOUND ANOTHER ROOKIE MONEY-MAKER YOU COULD PRACTICALLY DROOL OVER!

THEY'VE ALREADY PRODUCED TWO WORLD CHAMPIONS,

THEY SURE ARE SOMETHING, EH?

AND THE NEXT FIGHT WILL BE FOR THE FEATHERWEIGHT ROOKIE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE BETWEEN RIKIISHI TOORU AND HACHISUKA SABUROU!

HEH HEH

THINGS ARE GETTING EVEN MORE INTERESTING...

END TODAY'S MATCH WITH ANOTHER KO AND CLIMB YOUR WAY UP TO THE TOP OF THE KO RECORD!

I CAME HERE JUST TO SEE YOU, BIG GUY!

WOOHOO! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS, RIKIISHI!

THEIR FEVERISH EXCITEMENT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A WORLD TITLE MATCH!

RIKIISHI ENTERS, GREETED BY THE CROWD'S ADORATION!

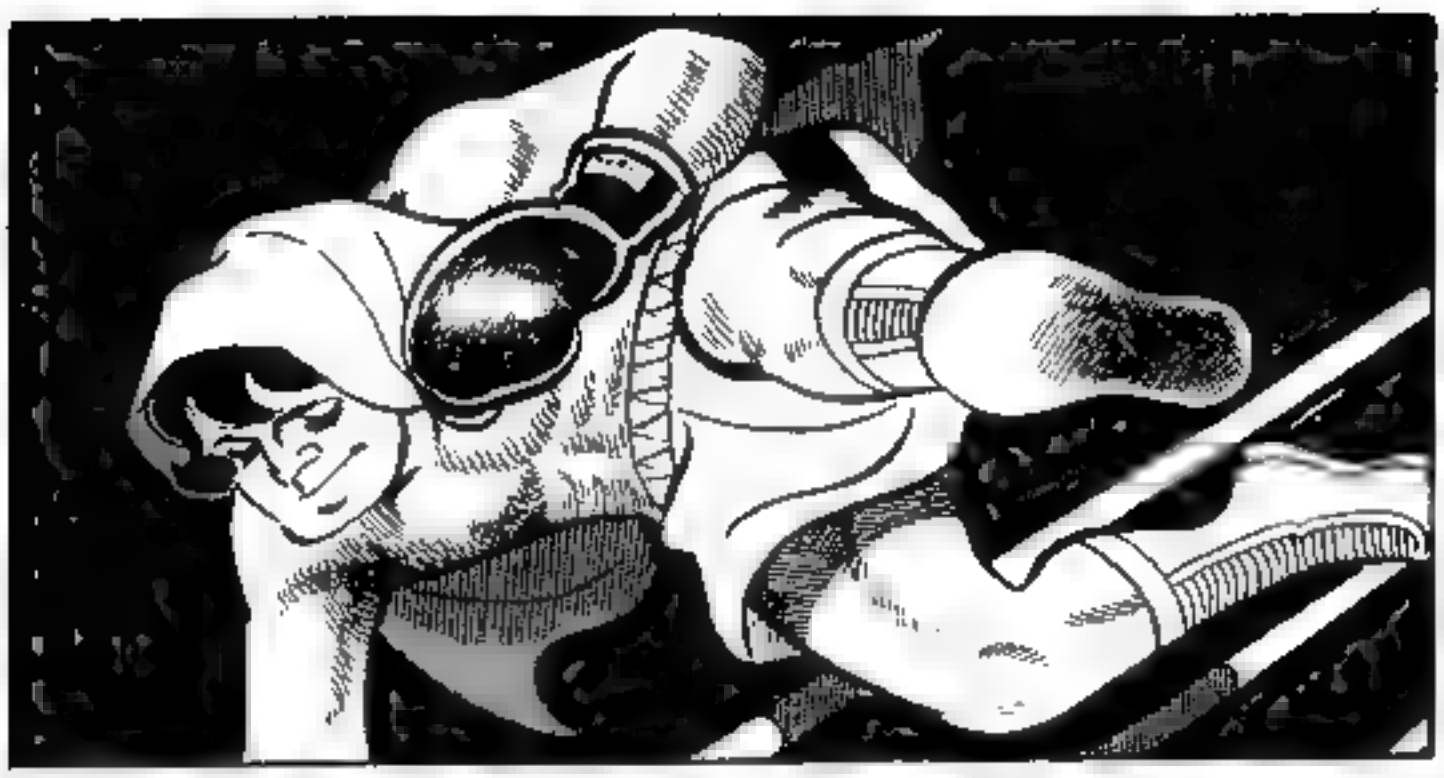
GOOD LUCK OUT THERE!

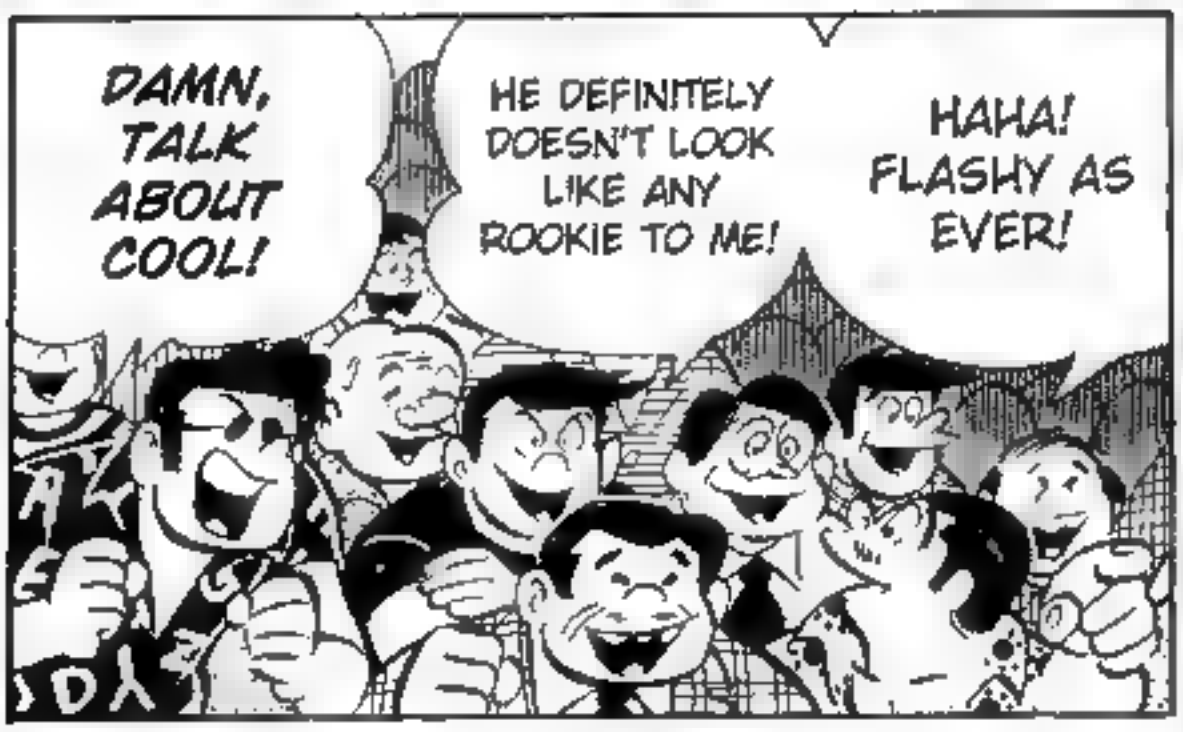
RIKIISHI!

THANK YOU, MISS.

V FOR VICTORY...

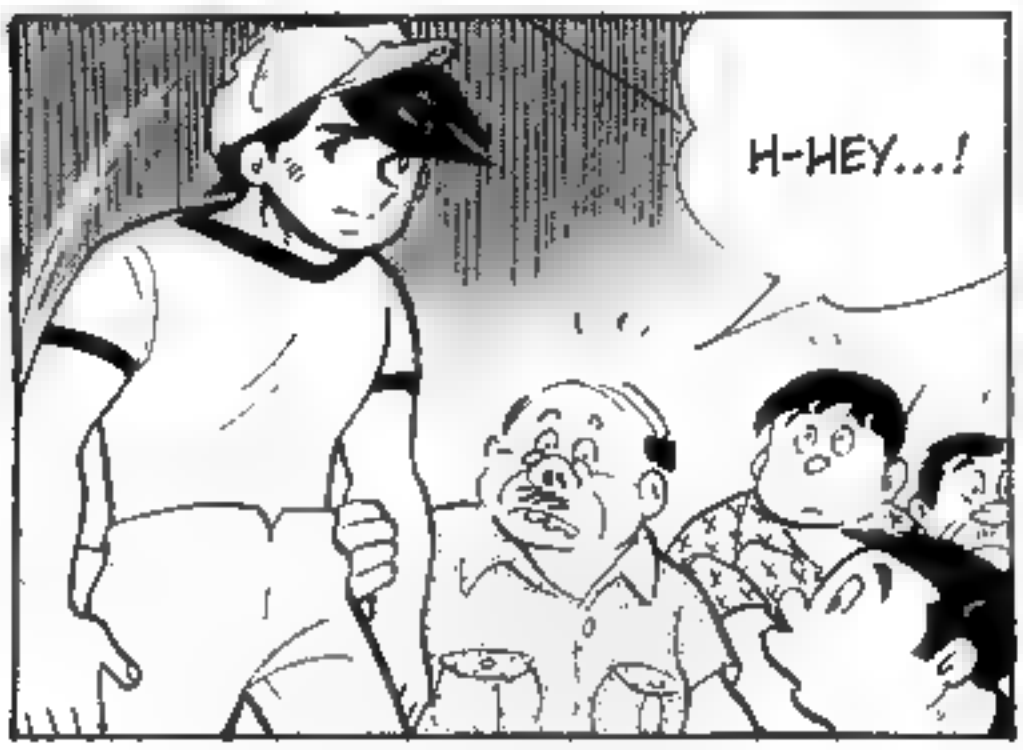
DO YOUR BEST!




DAMN, TALK ABOUT COOL!
HE DEFINITELY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY ROOKIE TO ME!
HAHA! FLASHY AS EVER!

NO!

HE'S BORN TO BE A STAR, THAT ONE.
KINDA STRANGE TO SEE HOW THE CROWD NEVER RESENTS RIKIISHI FOR BEING SHOWY.


H-HEY...!

THEN I CAN'T JUST SIT ALL THE WAY BACK IN SOME DARK CORNER LIKE THIS.

IF RIKIISHI'S GONNA FIGHT,

AH!

DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU GET KICKED OUT...

YOU'LL GET YELLED BY THE OFFICIALS!

YOU CAN'T JUST GO UP THERE, KID!

FROM OKISHIMA BOXING CLUB...

IN THE BLUE CORNER IS KANSAI'S FEATH-ERWEIGHT REP-RESENTATIVE...

YABUKI!

HACHISUKA SABUROU!

RIKIISHI TOORU!

FROM SHIRAKI GYM...

AND IN THE RED CORNER IS KANTOU'S FEATHER-WEIGHT REP-RESENTATIVE,

I'M SURE YOU AUDIENCES OUT THERE ARE ALL WELL AWARE OF RIKIISHI'S EVER GROWING CONSECUTIVE KO STREAK.

HAS THERE EVER BEEN ANOTHER ROOKIE BOXER TO RECEIVE SO MUCH ATTENTION!?

WOULD YOU LISTEN TO THE CROWD!

WHAT KIND OF PERFORMANCE WILL HE SHOW US ONCE THE BELL RINGS...!?

RIKIISHI, WHO WITH WOLF KANAGUSHI, SHARES MOST OF THE ATTENTION TONIGHT...

AH...

VOL. 5 END

あしたのジョー

ASHITA NO JOE

RAWS: GOTLURK

TRANSLATION AND EDITING: GHRGHR

YOU CAN SPREAD THIS ANYWAY AND ANY-WHERE YOU WANT. I JUST ASK YOU TO KEEP THIS CREDITS PAGE.

GHRGHRSCANS@GMAIL.COM

PROJECT BITE ME! SCANLATIONS
ALONG WITH HOX

MANGA: ASHITA NO JOE, CHAPTER 56

TRANSLATOR: HOX

SCANNER: AN ANONYMOUS PERSON

CLEANER: NULL

TYPESETTER: YAZAWA

QUALITY CHECK: ELAGABALUS

CONTACT INFO:

EMAIL: PROJECTBITEME@YAHOO.COM (HELP IS CURRENTLY WANTED, EMAIL ME IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.)
WEBSITE: WWW.MEDIAFIRE.COM/BITEMESCANLATIONS

NOT FOR SALE OR REFERENCE

IF FOR WHATEVER DUMB REASON, YOU BOUGHT THIS TRANSLATION, PLEASE KNOW YOU'RE GETTING RIPPED OFF AND ARE AN IDIOT. I WOULD GO DEMAND MY MONEY BACK IMMEDIATELY. THIS SCANLATION IS NOT TO BE USED FOR REFERENCE. IF YOU SHOULD HOST THIS ON AN ONLINE READER, I ONLY ASK YOU KEEP THIS CREDITS PAGE.